

Israeli army blows up tunnels

RAFAH (AFP) — The Israeli army Sunday destroyed two tunnels linking the Gaza Strip with Egypt used to smuggle weapons and contraband into the self-rule territories, military officials said. The sources said the four-metre-deep tunnels were blown up with explosives in the presence of Palestinian police and Egyptian soldiers who made no effort to intervene. "These tunnels allowed a person of ordinary build to crawl through without any problems," a military officer said. Several other tunnels have been destroyed by the army in recent months at the Israeli-controlled Rafah checkpoint, the only crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.



Saudis arrest 19,700 beggars

JEDDAH (AP) — Saudi Arabia has arrested 19,700 people for begging, a newspaper reported Sunday. The vast majority of those arrested, 15,000, were non-Saudis, the Arab News reported. Foreigners arrested for begging are deported while Saudis are taken to local charities. The newspaper said the arrests were made during a one year period, but did not give the exact dates. Authorities arrested 10,700 women and 9,000 men for begging, which is illegal in the kingdom, the newspaper said. The largest number of arrests were made in the Holy City of Mecca where 8,700 people were detained by police, the English-language newspaper reported. Most of the beggars were below the age of 18, and more than 8,500 were handicapped, the newspaper said.

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Majali criticises Israeli peace policies, says Jordan will meet Arab decision concerning Doha's MENA conference

CAIRO (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday criticised Israel's adamant position towards the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace.

Speaking in Cairo following talks with President Hosni Mubarak after the conclusion of the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Joint Committee meetings, Dr. Majali said: "The Israeli leadership is displaying obstinacy and it seems that it has not yet realised that there can be no peace without the return of occupied Arab lands and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital. We hope that the Western countries will understand this issue for the benefit of permanent, just and comprehensive peace." He added "there can be no permanent peace without Syria,

Lebanon and the Palestinians."

Concerning Jordan's participation in MENA's Doha summit, he said: "Jordan has a peace treaty with Israel and we have always attended multilateral meetings on the peace process because we believe that such meetings are beneficial to us and this has proved to be correct. Other Arab countries have different views and they did not attend multilateral meetings. But we appreciate and respect their position. As to the Doha meeting, it is part of the multilateral talks which were held first in Casablanca, then Amman and Cairo. We have not yet received an invitation to the meeting, but our decision on the meeting depends on circumstances and the progress of the peace process. We hope that the peace process will

have been resumed in time to allow the Doha meeting to take place. But if the Arabs are determined not to go, and if they find it is not in their interest to go, then the decision will be a common one, but if they decide to go, we will all go. Jordan will remain part of the Arab body, part of the Arab Nation, we are acting in unison. Even when we signed a treaty with Israel we were aiming to serve Arab interests since the treaty gave us a leeway in negotiations with Israel more than ever before," said Dr. Majali.

Dr. Majali told reporters that "Jordan supports the convening of any Arab summit which is designed to serve the higher Arab interest, but ample preparations should precede such a summit, in practice more than in theory."

On Egypt's role, he said

"We appreciate what Egypt is doing, we do not compete but rather complement Egypt's role towards realising peace."

Dr. Majali expressed Jordan's support for Egypt's call for the creation of an Arab common market. "We fully back Egypt's call for a common market and we have no reservation about this issue whatsoever. We will fully cooperate with Egypt on this matter. Actually the common market was one of the topics we discussed today with the president because of its importance at this juncture."

Dr. Majali was received upon his arrival Sunday by Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani.

Crown Prince calls upon Hungary to develop Europe-Mediterranean ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BUDAPEST — HRH Crown Prince Hassan started a three-day visit to Hungary by a meeting with Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs during which the Prince and the minister discussed bilateral relations and Middle East and European concerns.

According to an official Royal Court source, the Crown Prince and Mr. Kovacs discussed Middle Eastern regional affairs, mutual international efforts to remove obstacles that hinder the peace process in the Middle East in addition to bilateral relations in the political, economic and cultural fields.

The talks also focused on the roles that like-minded Jordan and Hungary can

play in developing ties between the two countries and between Europe and the Mediterranean region's nations, the source said.

Hungary, a newly-emerging east European country, is planning to join both the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Jordan, meanwhile, has initiated a partnership agreement with the EU.

The Crown Prince's three-day visit here includes a meeting with President Arpad Goncz, Parliament Speaker Zoltan Gal, senior officials and trade leaders.

The Prince, who is accompanied by HRH Prince Rashid Al Hassan, Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh and Minister of Trade Hani Mulki, will also meet with the Arab and

Muslim ambassadors and deliver a keynote address at the opening session of the 35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS). The conference which starts today groups scholars and intellectuals from 70 Asian and African countries and focuses on the study of literature, history of religions, philosophy, ethnography and sociology.

According to the Royal Court source, Jordan recognises the importance that Hungary, a member of the Organisation of Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), can play in the future to bolster Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

"Jordan would like to gain the status of an observer at OSCE," the source said. The OSCE was established at the height of the

cold war and included representatives from the then-eastern and western blocs and helped defuse many crises in Europe.

During the talks with trade and industry officials here, the Jordanian side will seek to address the imbalance in trade exchange between the two countries that currently stands at \$6 million to \$1 million in favour of Hungary.

The two sides will also review the cultural and scientific agreement that the two countries signed in 1978 and the educational and youth exchange programme for the years 1994-1996.

The Crown Prince arrived here from Geneva where he addressed a U.N. meeting on refugees.

(Continued on page 7)

Israeli soldiers reported tearing Holy Koran at Hebron school

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINIANS SAID Sunday they found torn copies of the Koran in a school they charged was ransacked by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank town of Hebron.

The town has been the scene of almost daily clashes since an Israeli woman put up posters on Palestinian shops depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig stomping on the Koran nine days ago.

Doors to the Al Yakubia Girls School were forced open and furniture was turned over in two of three rooms, witnesses said. They said four Korans were torn and scattered on the floor along with a pile of other books.

"The army always breaks the door and comes in to use the roof to watch demonstrators. They broke furniture and we found four Koran books torn and thrown on the ground," said the elementary school's headmaster, Atif Ebed.

Reuters reporters saw Israeli soldiers inside the school and on its roof last Thursday after clashes nearby between troops and Palestinian protesters.

"The school is located in an area where the severe clashes have taken place recently," said an army spokesman.

In an effort to quell growing violence, Israeli undercover troops have been mak-

ing night-time arrests of Palestinians suspected of organising riots and throwing bombs at Israeli soldiers, Israel Radio reported Sunday.

The radio said the arrest of "members of a cell" of activists in the Hebron area were made before dawn Saturday by elite troops disguised as Arabs, aided by the Shin Bet Security Service.

The army spokesman's office confirmed there were arrests in Hebron recently but refused to give details. Another official, who spoke anonymously, said the detained were mostly Islamist fundamentalists and were caught in areas under Israel's control.

One of those arrested was identified by a Palestinian official who spoke anonymously, as Mofei Sharabati, captured during a raid at his home after midnight Saturday.

There has been sporadic West Bank violence since peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians broke down three months ago, after Israel began building a new settlement for Jews in disputed Arab east Jerusalem.

Much of the violence has been in Hebron, where about 500 Jews live among 130,000 Arabs. Although Israel turned over most of the city to the Palestinians in January, it still controls the downtown area where the Jews live in several enclaves.

On Thursday, undercover troops mingled with the riot-



Copies of the Koran lay scattered on the floor of the Al Yakubia Girls School in Hebron Sunday. Harifa Aybedu, headmistress of the school, found several copies of the Koran torn and smeared with paint Saturday, but did not dare tell anyone at first (AFP photo)

ers and seized their leaders. Sunday's report suggested Israel was now also making night-time arrests at suspects' homes.

In another development, the Israeli army's chief legal authority ruled that an army position outside Jewish settlements in Gaza is in Palestinian territory, the Haaretz daily said. The position guards settler offices and a snack bar.

Brigadier General Uri Shoham said the land on which the fortified position stands was leased by the Palestinians to the Israelis, but for civilian purposes only.

Some 6,000 tonnes of turkey and 500 tonnes of goose liver are shipped to the EU in a one-year period, he said, adding that Israel does not export chicken to the EU.

European Union halts import of Israeli poultry

By Ghaila Alul Jordan Times Staff Reporter

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The European Union has forbidden the import of poultry from Israel for six months after a virus was discovered at a chicken farm, an Agriculture Ministry spokesman said Sunday.

The ministry director general and head of veterinary services will travel to Brussels Tuesday in an effort to persuade the EU to retract its decision and prevent some \$800,000 in losses, spokesman Naftali Yaniv told AFP.

The EU took the action beginning July 1 after Israeli authorities revealed that the Newcastle virus was discovered at a farm in the southern port city of Ashkelon, he added.

"Instead of just quarantining the farm, the EU has decided to quarantine all of Israel," Mr. Yaniv said. "This will cause great losses."

Some 6,000 tonnes of turkey and 500 tonnes of goose liver are shipped to the EU in a one-year period, he said, adding that Israel does not export chicken to the EU.

Israeli soldier killed, two villagers wounded in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Israeli warplanes attacked suspected guerrilla hideouts in southern Lebanon Sunday after an Israeli soldier was killed and two Lebanese villagers were wounded in fighting, security officials in Lebanon said.

The officials said rocket and artillery clashes erupted at 9 a.m. in the eastern sector of Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in the south.

The fighting occurred near the village of Sojod, where the Israeli soldier was reported killed, the officials said.

Israel initially responded by sending helicopters to

European Parliament deputy bashes Spain's blocking of Jordan-EU partnership accord

By Ghaila Alul Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A member of the European Parliament (EP) on Sunday said Spain's recent decision to block the partnership agreement between Jordan and the European Union (EU) "jeopardises the whole objective of the EU-Mediterranean partnership which calls for stability in the region and the development of the welfare of people."

"I strongly disapprove of the Spanish position which is senseless and inconsistent," said Deputy Magda Aelvoet, rapporteur of the committee of foreign affairs, security and defence policy at the EP.

Spain, last month, vetoed the EU-Jordan partnership agreement in protest against the size of the Kingdom's tomato paste quota saying it was too large.

The European deputy, who arrived here Saturday on a five-day working visit, stressed that EP will "increase pressure on Spain if it does not change

its position." She added that the foreign affairs committee at the EP will put forth an oral question to the European Council demanding an explanation of the Spanish position.

However, Ms. Aelvoet said, "unfortunately, such question should be passed on to the council six weeks before the parliament's plenary session to be held next week."

The issue will be discussed when the parliament reconvenes in September at which time a resolution is expected to be voted upon, she added.

Under the agreement initiated April on the sidelines of the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Malta, Jordan can export a little more than 3,000 tonnes of tomato paste to EU markets free of customs duties but with tariff quotas and a set timetable.

Both Jordan and the EU are allowed under the agreement to rediscuss and revise the quantity of produce that can be exported to EU markets.

Spain, however, has

demanding that the revision clause be omitted from the agreement. If Jordan refuses the omission of the clause, the whole deal may have to be renegotiated.

"If Spain asks to drop the revision clause which is the heart of the accord, Jordan would not get a fair deal... especially that the size of the tomato paste quota that Jordan can export to European countries is very small," said Ms. Aelvoet.

"To start negotiations all over again is time consuming and can be dangerous," she added.

Also on Sunday, Ms. Aelvoet met with Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs Jawad Anani and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf, and discussed the EU-Jordan partnership agreement.

Ms. Aelvoet is also scheduled to meet with members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Amman Chamber of Industry and the Jordanian Women's Federation.

Britain distorted HK views on democracy — Patten

LONDON (R) — Hong Kong's last British governor says London distorted Hong Kong people's views on a plan for greater democracy in 1988, bowing to Chinese demands for a delay in direct elections to the legislature, the Sunday Times reported.

Chris Patten's allegations appear in a book to be published later this week. Extracts appeared in the Sunday Times newspaper.

"If I were a citizen of Hong Kong, I would regard it as very bad that I hadn't been kept in the know and that my views had been treated in this way," Governor Patten was quoted as saying by Jonathan Dimbleby, author of "The Last Governor."

But former British Foreign Affairs Adviser and Beijing Ambassador Sir Percy Cradock described the extracts as "shockingly biased. Charges about betrayal of course won't

bear examination," he told Hong Kong Radio.

Mr. Dimbleby says that in 1987 London advised Beijing to ensure its supporters in Hong Kong individually signed statements calling on Britain not to introduce direct elections for a small number of Legislative Council members the following year.

People backing the direct elections proposal signed petitions in large numbers. The Hong Kong government then declared that although the petitions were signed by 230,000 people and the individual statements by just 135,000, more forms had been received against direct elections than in favour of them.

Governor Patten, who is widely credited with making Hong Kong more democratic during his period as governor — which ended with the handover to China last week — is quoted as saying: "There is absolutely

no doubt at all that the majority wanted direct elections."

He criticised the judgement of former Conservative Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and his advisers.

"It did not seem to be in line with our historic and substantial responsibilities to six million people, who are real people, who are not part of a sort of interesting diplomatic puzzle," Governor Patten said. The allegations prompted Paddy Ashdown, leader of the minority Liberal Democrats, to call for relevant documents to be made available to a parliamentary committee.

"The documents should now be presented to the select committee on foreign affairs for their scrutiny so that they can decide whether a full investigation into this matter is required," Mr. Ashdown, a former British serviceman in Hong Kong, said.

Iraq's national soccer team to participate in Arab Games

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has decided to send its soccer team to participate in the Arab Games in Lebanon, according to a statement Sunday from Iraq's National Olympic Committee.

Kuwait has threatened to boycott the games if Iraq participates. Kuwait still hasn't forgiven Iraq for its August 1990 invasion and seven-month occupation, which was ended by the 1991 Gulf war.

The Eighth Arab Games are expected to bring to Lebanon some 2,000 athletes from 18 Middle East

countries between July 12 and July 27.

Among the events will be soccer, basketball, swimming, tennis, shooting, rowing, wrestling and gymnastics.

The Iraqi committee said the country would compete in 13 events, including soccer.

It said, however, Iraq would not send the national basketball team "because of its bad performance lately."

The Iraqi teams have stepped up training since the start of the year to be ready for the competition.

the committee statement said.

Iraq last participated in the Sixth Arab Games, held in 1985 in Morocco. It was third in overall point count.

Iraq did not participate in the 1992 games in Syria because of protests from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Iraq has warned Kuwait against trying to block Iraq's participation this year.

In a letter to the Arab League Tuesday, Iraq's Olympic Committee complained about efforts to keep its youth out of

regional sporting events.

"Kuwait is trying to prevent Iraq from participating, using its financial weight against rules and norms set by the Arab League and the organising committee in Lebanon," the letter charged.

The invitation for the games was issued by Lebanon and the Arab League's Council for Youth.

Lebanon hopes to use the games to showcase its reconstruction from the 1975-90 civil war. The last time Lebanon hosted the Arab Games was in 1957.

(Continued on page 7)

Rushdie to be 'executed soon,' says Iranian religious leader

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian religious leader said Sunday that British author Salman Rushdie, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" was judged blasphemous by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, would be "executed soon."

"Salman Rushdie will be executed soon by Hizbollah fighters," Ahmad Khatami, a cleric from the Shiite Muslim holy city of Qom, told a crowd of some 2,000 demonstrators during an anti-Israeli protest outside U.N. headquarters here.

Mr. Khatami also called for the deaths of the Jewish extremists responsible for posters defaming the Muslim Prophet Muhammad which were put up on walls in the West Bank city of Hebron last month.

Tatiana Sosskind, 25, a Jewish woman from Jerusalem, has been arrested by the Israeli authorities for distributing the poster depicting the Islamic

prophet as a pig, an animal considered filthy by both Jews and Muslims.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have both strongly condemned the posters and apologized for any offence to the religious sentiments of Muslims.

Mr. Khatami, a teacher in the Koranic schools in Qom, told the demonstrators "the person who did the drawing and those who printed and distributed it must be executed."

He urged "devout Muslims around the world to apply the sentence of God against those who offend his prophet."

"They must be executed wherever they are," the cleric said, calling on fundamentalists to attack "the interests of Israel around the world."

"We expect the devout Muslims of Palestine to make the ground tremble beneath the feet of Israel," he added.

Two other leading ayatollahs from Qom, Yousef Sanei and Abdul Karim Mussavi Ardebili, also called last week for the deaths of those behind the posters.

Mr. Khatami Sunday also praised former spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini for his 1989 "fatwa," or religious decree, condemning Mr. Rushdie to death.

"Salman Rushdie was the first test for Muslims and the Hebron posters are the second," he said, denouncing a recent meeting between the writer and Derek Fatchett, the junior foreign minister in Britain's new Labour government which is seeking to have the death sentence against Mr. Rushdie lifted.

"The verdict of our national hero Ayatollah Khomeini will be enforced soon by Hizbollah fighters," Mr. Khatami said.



A crowd of some 2,000 demonstrators gathered outside U.N. headquarters in Qom, Sunday. Ahmad Khatami, a Shiite Muslim cleric, told the crowd that British author Salman Rushdie, whose novel "The Satanic Verses" was judged blasphemous by the late Ayatollah Khomeini, would be executed soon. Mr. Khatami also called for the deaths of Jewish extremists responsible for distributing posters defaming the Muslim Prophet Muhammad in the West Bank city of Hebron (AFP Photo)

Parliament to grill Kuwaiti minister over corruption

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's Finance Minister Nasser Rodhan is to be grilled in parliament over alleged mismanagement of public funds, a move which could spark a no confidence vote, MPs and officials said Sunday.

The proposal from three MPs has been introduced for Tuesday's weekly debate in parliament. But officials said that Mr. Rodhan, who is also deputy premier, can ask for any formal questioning to be postponed for one or two weeks.

The grilling will include questions on the minister's alleged failure to implement laws to protect public funds and prevent the misuse of public property, said independent MP Ahmad Mulaifi, who is backing the proposal.

Mr. Mulaifi, with liberal deputies Mishari Osaini and Sami Munayyes, submitted the proposal to Parliament Speaker Ahmad Sabudun Saturday.

Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Ahmad Sabah gave Mr. Rodhan the government's full backing, saying the finance minister has worked hard to safeguard public funds.

"These achievements make us proud of Mr. Rodhan and keen on supporting him to continue his services to Kuwait," Sheikh Sabah told the official news agency, KUNA.

Analysts said a vote of no confidence, which

requires the support of at least 10 MPs, may be tabled after the interrogation.

A simple majority of MPs in the 50-seat assembly, excluding the four elected members who are also cabinet ministers, could force the minister's resignation.

"We can't speak about resignation now. It depends on the discussion," Mr. Mulaifi said, but added that if Mr. Rodhan's answers were not adequate then parliament could move to a confidence vote.

In 1985, the then justice minister resigned after a grilling by MPs and a confidence vote was tabled.

Mr. Rodhan was appointed finance minister and deputy prime minister in 1992, taking a seat in parliament as an unelected cabinet member. He previously held the commerce and industry portfolio.

The embattled minister has denied any link to the failed assassination last month of liberal MP and anti-corruption campaigner Abdullah Naibari.

"So many stories have come out about my relations with the suspects," he said in parliament, adding that the rumours also concerned members of his extended family.

But Mr. Mulaifi said the move to question Mr. Rodhan was not connected with the Naibari shooting.

Hamas demands Israel release Sheikh Yousef for poor health

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) demanded the release of one of its West Bank leaders held in an Israeli jail whose health has greatly deteriorated, a group statement said Sunday.

Sheikh Hassan Yousef, the Hamas spokesman in the West Bank town of Ramallah, was apprehended April 3 by Israel while crossing at the Allenby Bridge into Jordan for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. He was sentenced by a military court to four months of administrative detention in the Megiddo prison in northern Israel.

"We are holding the

Israelis entirely responsible for his health," which has declined since Sheikh Yousef began having arthritic pains due to the poor prison conditions, said the release.

The Israeli army would not immediately comment on the demand or Sheikh Yousef's health.

During his jail term, Sheikh Yousef had spent time in a hospital in central Israel but his health did not significantly improve, his family members told Hamas.

He was also temporarily moved to another prison in Ashkelon, in southern Israel, and has not been allowed to see them for several weeks, they said.

Sheikh Yousef has been held in Israeli prisons at least 10 times for his radical activities with Hamas, which opposes the Palestinian-Israeli peace accords, his family said.

Sheikh Yousef also worked with the Islamic Religious Affairs Authority, the Waqf.

His arrest came after a Hamas attack on March 21 in Tel Aviv that killed three Israeli women.

The bombing had been in retaliation for Israel's start of construction March 18 on a Jewish settlement in disputed Arab east Jerusalem, which brought the peace talks with the Palestinians to a standstill.

Libyans plan marches to Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libyan activists are planning marches to Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia in the coming months to support the ideal of Arab unity, officials said Sunday.

Members of people's committees and unions have set the first march to Egypt for July 23, the anniversary of the 1952 Egyptian revolution, said Hassuna Shawesh, an official at the Libyan Ministry of Arab Unity.

"Libyan demonstrators will join up with Egyptians during the march which comes under the banner of efforts to achieve Arab unity to face up the challenges of the 21st century," he said.

The 1952 revolution in Egypt overthrew the king and swept Gamal Abdul Nasser to power. Muammar Kadhafi, who took power in Libya in 1969, sees himself as heir to the legacy of Nasser who preached Arab unity.

The second march will take place on November 1, the anniversary of the Algerian revolution in 1954, while the third to Tunisia is set for November 7, the anniversary of the accession of President Zine Abidine Ben Ali in 1987.

Iran denies German report of role in Lockerbie bombing

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran denied Sunday a report in the German news magazine Der Spiegel about an investigation into Tehran's possible involvement in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

"This article shows that the media influenced by the Zionists wants to influence international public opinion," said Mahmoud Mohammadi, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, as quoted by the official IRNA news agency.

The magazine, in its Monday edition, says prosecutors in Frankfurt and the federal police are

examining a claim that the late Iranian spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, ordered the bombing.

The allegation comes from a witness who had testified in a trial over the deaths in 1992 in Berlin of four Kurdish activists, for which the court blamed the Iranian leadership and intelligence services.

"This witness has become an instrument in the hands of the German media and in the service of the Zionists for the ridiculous allegations and lies against Iran," Mr. Mohammadi said.

According to the witness, Ayatollah Khomeini

asked Libya and the terrorist group of Abu Nidal to carry out the bombing in retaliation for the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus passenger plane by the U.S. Navy.

The bomb that downed Pan Am Flight 103 is thought to have been taken to Frankfurt in several pieces, then hidden on a flight to London before being placed on the plane, it said.

Libya has refused to extradite two suspects named by Western investigators as being the perpetrators of the December 21, 1988 bombing which left 270 people dead.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Egyptian football fans killed in clashes after local derby

CAIRO (AFP) — Two Egyptian football fans were killed and six injured in violence between supporters of rival teams in Cairo following a local derby match, the press reported Sunday. Fighting broke out after the Ahli (national) soccer team beat Zamalek Friday, improving its chances of becoming Egyptian champions this year. In Giza, south of Cairo, three brothers, all Ahli fans, beat up their Zamalek-supporting neighbour, who died on arrival at hospital, according to Al Wafd newspaper. In the town of Beyala in the Delta region north of Cairo, a Zamalek fan stabbed a neighbour to death after an argument in a cafe where they were watching the match, the paper added. Another six people suffered knife wounds in a central Cairo cafe when fighting broke out between supporters of the rival teams, it said.

Turkish far-right nationalists choose leader

ISTANBUL (R) — The Turkish far-right National Action Party chose a new leader on Sunday after the death of its veteran chief, Alparslan Turkes; in April, state-run Anatolian news agency said. Devlet Bahceli was elected ahead of Mr. Turkes' son and heir apparent Tugrul Turkes in a party congress held in Ankara after a similar meeting was abandoned in May when fist-fighting broke out between rival factions. Mr. Bahceli and the party's "Grey Wolf" nationalists who espouse unity between Turkish-speaking peoples, failed to win any seats in parliament at the last election in 1995, but gained two MPs after defections from Tansil Ciller's True Path Party last month.

Top-level talks between Iran, Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) — President Hafez Al Assad held talks here Sunday with visiting Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi, officials said. The two countries' foreign ministers, Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Syria's Farouk Sharaa, also took part in the meeting, a Syrian spokesman said without giving details of the subject of the talks. Mr. Habibi earlier co-chaired a meeting of the Iranian-Syrian Committee with his Syrian counterpart, Abdul Halim Khadham. The committee discussed economic cooperation and the Israeli-Arab peace process. The Iranian leader has also met Lebanese Muslim leaders in Damascus since arriving here Saturday, including the head of the Shiite Amal Movement, officials said.

Iranian grain output down due to drought

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's grain harvest is expected to drop sharply this year because of a drought which has gripped the main grain-producing areas of the country, the deputy agriculture minister said in remarks published Sunday. "Grain production this year is not expected to be more than 10.5 million tonnes while our target was around 12.6 million tonnes," newspapers here quoted Jalal Rassoullof as saying. Mr. Rassoullof, who is in charge of logistics at the Ministry of Agriculture, said Iran was expected to import five million tonnes of grain this year. Iran consumed 13.2 million tonnes of grain in 1996 and imported 4.9 million tonnes, mainly from Argentina, Australia and Canada. Rainfall and snowfall was light during the past winter but several areas in the northwest of the country have been hit by torrential rains during the past few days.

Egypt, Saudi Arabia discuss expanding military cooperation

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the head of the Saudi armed forces held talks here Sunday on ways to boost military cooperation between the former Gulf war allies, officials said. General Saleh Ben Ali Mohaya, chairman of the Saudi Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters following his meeting with Mr. Mubarak that their talks covered "military cooperation in all fields." He said the two countries would conduct joint naval manoeuvres soon as part of plans to hold a series of joint military exercises. General Mohaya did not say when the naval manoeuvres, to be held in the Red Sea, would start. The two countries have held such exercises in August in recent years. Mr. Mohaya arrived here Saturday accompanied by a large military delegation. Egyptian troops were members of the U.S.-led multinational coalition which drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

15:40 Spina
16:05 Problem Child
16:30 Blue Heelers
17:00 Ocean Girl
17:15 Nature by Profession
18:10 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:29 News Headline
19:35 Comedy — Murphy Brown
20:00 The Grant Nile
20:20 Babylon 5
21:10 Highlander
22:00 News in English
22:35 The Wright Verdict
23:15 Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

03:57 Fajr
05:31 (Sunrise) Duha
12:40 Dhur
16:21 Asr
19:50 Maghreb
21:24 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedeh. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
637785

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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622360
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 671231
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 924328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 652932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Asr
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614191

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Relative warm weather conditions

North pharmacy 847632
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Tel. Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
J. Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Co. 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Bank of Jordan 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Dept. 620321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water & Sewage Complaints 897467
Arman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Call 010230
Central Amman Telephone

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 813813/32
Khafid Maternity 642816
Akileh Maternity 642442
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeissani 607071
Shmeissani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mutajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:

ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)983323
ZARQA National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafess Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (52700).

23:30 Athens (OA)
01:20 Amsterdam, Damascus (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
11:00 Casablanca (RJ)
11:55 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00 Riyadh (add) (RJ)
12:20 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
13:35 Frankfurt (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:05 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:25 'Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)
23:59 Damascus (RJ)
03:40 Doha (RJ)
04:30 Dhahran (RJ)

Other Flights
06:15 Istanbul (TK)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
09:10 London (BA)
12:00 Khartoum (SD)
15:00 Bahrain (GF)
17:50 Doha (Q7)
19:50 Vienna (OS)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:15 Cairo (M)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (A)
02:30 Amsterdam (K)
04:00 Athens (O)

Anniversary of the death of King Talal marked today

AMMAN (Petra) — Today marks the 25th anniversary of the death of King Talal Ben Abdullah, father of His Majesty King Hussein.

King Talal died on July 7, 1972.

Under his reign, the country prepared its national Constitution in 1952 and which described Jordan as part of the Arab Nation.

The Constitution also covered the implementation of principles and objectives of the Great Arab Revolt, led by the late Sharif Hussein Ben Ali earlier this century.

During King Talal's rule, Jordan concluded important agreements, one of which was a pan-Arab security agreement which considers any aggression on any Arab state as one directed against all Arabs.

King Talal was born in Mecca in 1909 and studied at the British Military College of Sandhurst.

He was the first Jordanian officer to graduate from that college in 1939

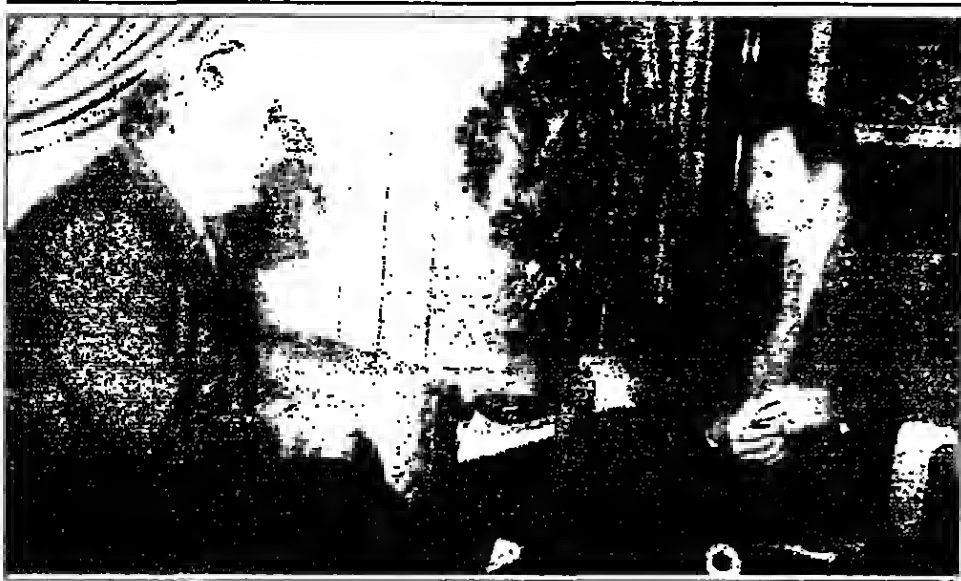


The late King Talal Ben Abdullah

and proclaimed King of Jordan in 1951.

King Talal was succeeded

ed by King Hussein, who was crowned on August 11, 1952.



HRH Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, Sunday confers with Speaker of the Senate Zaid Rifai. Prince Abdullah visited Parliament to congratulate Mr. Rifai on his appointment as speaker of the Senate and called for forging closer cooperation among the three government branches (Petra photo)

National environmental campaign aims to collect 1 m signatures

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi Sunday opened a national campaign to collect a million signatures in order to involve the public in environmental protection efforts.

During the inaugural ceremony, the mayor asserted that the signatories will pledge "to safeguard the environment and avoid harming trees, plants, animals and birds which share life with us on this planet."

The pledge includes a promise to refrain from

wasting water.

Through environmental protection, "we are ensuring safety for ourselves and the coming generations," according to Dr. Abbadi.

"Our modern world faces a [terrifying] future full of fear, anxiety and concern as we witness the desert encroaching on our lands, and industrial waste polluting our environment and responsible for the death of trees and untold animal species as well as the depletion of water resources," he added.

Many elements have created health problems and continue to threaten the environment and "we must undertake preventive methods to redress the situation before it is too late to do so," the mayor affirmed.

"It is for this reason that the Amman municipality is taking the initiative to collect the signatures of a million citizens to involve them in practical endeavours to safeguard the environment," he concluded.

Conference to cover nutrition and its role in alleviating chronic disease

AMMAN (J.T.) — A conference, entitled "Dietary fibre, nutrition and chronic diseases in Arab Middle Eastern Countries" will be held in Irbid from July 7-9, a statement said.

The conference, organised by the Arab Nutrition Society, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the U.S.-based Kellogg's, will be held over three days at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST), according to the statement.

In addition to participants from the World Health Organisation (WHO), FAO and Kellogg's there will be representatives from countries including Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan,

Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The main objectives of the conference will be to examine changing food consumption patterns in the Arab Middle East, with particular emphasis on dietary fibre — currently hailed by nutrition experts as a chief preventative of many chronic diseases including certain forms of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and obesity; as well as to review the current rates of such chronic diseases in the region.

The conference will conclude by recommending ideal dietary fibre intake among

the local population, the statement said.

Amongst the many eminent speakers at the conference will be Dr. Abdul Rahman Musaiger of the Arab Nutrition Society, discussing diet-related diseases in the UAE and rates of obesity in Qatar; Dr. Samir Miladi of the FAO who will consider the changing patterns of food consumption across the region; and Dr. Kathryn O'Sullivan, Nutrition Consultant for Kellogg's who will detail global recommendations for fibre intake to combat chronic disease, the statement concluded.

Jordan, Egypt decry deadlock in peace negotiations

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt Sunday expressed deep concern over the deadlock in the Middle East peace negotiations, which they attributed to Israeli actions "which neither conform to UN resolutions nor the principles of the Madrid Conference and which disregard progress heretofore achieved in previous negotiations on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Palestinian tracks."

A statement, issued in Cairo at the conclusion of the Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee's two-day meeting co-chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and his Egyptian counterpart Kamal Jazwari, called for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338 and 425 and the principle of trading land for peace.

The committee voiced the two countries' "censure and rejection of the Israeli settlement policy in occupied Arab territories as well as the rejection of various Israeli measures aimed at Judaizing and

annexing Arab Jerusalem. "These practices and measures are considered illegitimate and have neither legal nor political validity," they said.

The two countries expressed their determination to salvage the peace process and enable the Palestinian people to regain their land and exercise their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Arab Jerusalem as its capital.

Jordan also voiced its support for all Egyptian efforts and endeavours towards the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations.

The two countries concurred that the Middle East must be a zone free of weapons of mass destruction so as to safeguard security for all nations, including that of Israel.

This can be achieved when all parties sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and other protocols which ban the stockpiling and usage of biological and chemical weapons, they affirmed.

The two sides also condemned a recent Turkish

incursion into northern Iraq and demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Iraq.

Voicing support for Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity as well as their rejection of any partitioning of that country, Jordan and Egypt expressed concern over the continued suffering of the Iraqi people.

Iraq's full cooperation with the United Nations in the implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions is likely to end the embargo currently imposed there, they asserted.

Jordan and Egypt also condemned all forms of terrorism as posing a danger to individuals and nations. They called for concerted international efforts to deal with terrorism and its root causes.

The two countries said they will pursue efforts to bolster solidarity among Arab states and the Arab League as well as collective action to ensure national security and protect the Arab World's identity and interests.

They also underlined the importance of an integrated Arab economy and the

formation of a common Arab market as a basic step towards complete Arab economic unity.

Jordan and Egypt also requested that Arab economic institutions help stimulate cooperation in a manner conforming to global economic development and in implementation of inter-Arab economic agreements.

The two countries declared themselves satisfied with the level of trade exchanges between Jordan and Egypt and studied ways for further boosting trade and economic cooperation.

They resolved to convene a meeting by the joint trade committee to further pursue this matter.

The committee statement maintained that Jordan and Egypt will organise meetings to link their financial markets and introduce measures to encourage joint investment projects by business communities in both nations.

The committee discussed land transport and passed measures to encourage the private sector to establish a land transport company to boost trade.

The committee also covered cooperation in indus-

try, energy and electricity and resolved to accelerate work linking power networks between the two countries as well as that of Egyptian gas pumped through a pipeline to be constructed between Sinai and Aqaba.

Other topics of discussion covered agriculture, the registration of pharmaceutical products and organising the employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two sides signed agreements in regards to:

- A final agreement on electric network linkage.
- An agreement on technical cooperation in caring for animals.

- A memorandum on cooperation in administrative development.

- An agreement on postal transfers.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak received Dr. Majali who conveyed a message from His Majesty King Hussein and the two reviewed bilateral relations in economic, trade, tourism and political fields.

Prince Ra'd stresses importance of national strategy for students of special education

AMMAN (Petra) — During a meeting convened to develop a national strategy for the development of special education in Jordan, HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid Sunday compared the situation of disabled persons in Jordan to problems of poverty and unemployment in their grave impact on society as a whole.

He called for a national plan to encourage preventive protection for people with mental or physical handicaps.

Addressing the opening session of a seminar held at the Teachers Club in Amman, Prince Ra'd described problems pertaining to disabilities and handicaps in Jordan as complex.

He further stated that the number of those suffering from disabilities ranges between seven to 10 per cent of the population, according to estimates provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

"If statistics are accurately tallied, we expect to find between 370,000 to 400,000 Jordanians suffering from various disabilities," Prince Ra'd stated. "These handicaps adversely affect families and the Jordanian society as a whole."

Jordan is in dire need of a national plan to prevent disabilities to be implemented in the context of the government-sponsored social safety net, he said.

For such a plan to be suc-



During a meeting convened to develop a national strategy for the development of special education in Jordan, HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid Sunday compares the situation of disabled persons in Jordan to problems of poverty and unemployment (Petra photo)

cessful, a data base providing accurate information about the magnitude of disabilities in Jordan is necessary, according to the Prince, who emphasised the need for a national awareness campaign to help prevent disabilities.

This task, he said, should be supported by studies, field surveys and sufficient funding.

Experience has demonstrated that early detection

of disabilities enables doctors to prevent a worsening of a said condition, Prince Ra'd maintained.

He stressed the importance of institutions which care for and rehabilitate handicapped persons.

Educational programmes for families regarding methods in which to care for handicapped persons as well as the involvement of voluntary groups are vital in the fight against disabilities, he said.

Ministry of Education Secretary General Izzat Jaradat referred to plans for reforming the educational system in accordance with recommendations and resolutions passed by the 1987 National Conference on Education.

Ministry plans provide for special education both for the handicapped and those with learning disabilities, he said.

The seminar, organised by the Ministry of Education in conjunction with a number of voluntary societies, reviewed reports covering services offered to handicapped students, special education centres and special classes in public schools.

Participants to yesterday's meeting included educationists and experts in special education.

Japan invites Jordanians to youth programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ten Jordanian youths have been invited by the Japanese government to participate in "The International Youth Exchange Programme, 1997" to be held in Japan from July 8 to August 1, an Embassy of Japan statement said.

The exchange programme is organised with the objective of providing youth from various countries opportunities to experience and understand Japan and the Japanese, it added.

They will participate in diverse activities such as industrial and cultural experiences, visits to social and other facilities, home stays and camping in an International Youth Village, according to the statement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Agreement reached with workers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Mills Company and the general union for workers in food industries, Sunday reached an agreement under which the company will allocate a monthly salary increase of JD 7 to workers. The agreement is retroactive and effective as of January of this year. Under the agreement, the two sides will develop a regulation covering working hours.

Anani receives air transport president

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Anani Sunday received President of the Air Transport and Tourism Association Abdul Halim Khaddam and the association's executive committee members. The group discussed consequences of the Royal Jordanian (RJ) restructuring plans for its staff. The association earlier proposed methods of improving the financial situation of RJ staff.

Missing Jordanian located in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — An 18-year old Jordanian, reported missing two weeks ago, was located in Aqaba Saturday. Majed Sa'd Muheirah from Wadi Seer was reported missing a couple of weeks ago after apparent domestic squab-

bles. His brother Abdul Jalil reported him missing to the Wadi Seer police. Police forces in Aqaba apprehended Majed while the latter was working on a cement ship docking at the Aqaba port.

JD 600,000 allocated for maintenance

SALT (Petra) — The Baqaa Camp Improvement Committee has allocated JD 600,000 to implement construction and maintenance work for the camp roads, as well as to construct a public library and offices for the Palestinian Affairs Department in the camp, according to Committee Chairman Ata Wheidi. The committee recently offered a JD 80,000 tender to construct a commercial investment centre.

Crime rate drops slightly in June

AMMAN (Petra) — Reported crimes dropped by 7.09 per cent last month as compared with the previous month. Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Sunday. According to the sources, a total of 1,482 crimes were recorded in June, including 210 thefts. These accounted for 30.39 per cent of the total number of crimes, followed by minor injuries with almost 19 per cent of the total. A total of 182 people were arrested in connection with these thefts, including 26 foreigners involved in 26 thefts.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

"Un Taxi Pour Tobrouk" at the French Cultural, Jabel Weibdeh, at 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Photography exhibition by Jan Kessy, at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Weibdeh, until July 29.

* Fifth exhibition of Korean products at the Amman International Motor Show, until July 7.

* Paintings by Ali Al Ghofar at Greater Amman Municipality Cultural Department, Ras Al 'Ain, until July 31.

* "Silver Jewelry exhibition" at the Jordan Design and Trade Centre of Noor Al Hussein Foundation, until July 20.

* Karim Rasin's works at the Orient Gallery, until July 10.

* Paintings by contemporary Iraqi artists entitled "Ecology and Environment in Iraqi Art" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until July 12 (except Tuesdays).

* "Contemporary Arab Artists Exhibition," showing works of 60 Arab artists, at Darat Al Funun, Jabel Weibdeh until July 24.

Opponents seek talks with Bosnian Serb leader to defuse power struggle

PALE (R) — Opponents of Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic said Sunday they wanted talks with her to defuse a power struggle, but doubts remained over whether the meeting would materialise.

Hardliners said Mrs. Plavsic and her rival, Momcilo Krajisnik, were scheduled to meet but the president's office declined to confirm that any talks had been agreed.

Political sources said Mrs. Plavsic was reluctant to meet her rival outside Banja Luka out of fear for her safety.

Senior police officers in Banja Luka have sided with Mrs. Plavsic since she blew the whistle on alleged corruption linked to the powerful interior minister, Dragan Kijac.

Banja Luka, the largest town in Bosnia's Serb entity, has become Mrs. Plavsic's power base but hardliners are believed to control the police force elsewhere.

With uncertainty surrounding the meeting, Western envoys said the week-long confrontation may have reached a point where nei-

ther side was willing to compromise.

Mrs. Plavsic was waging a battle against wartime leaders loyal to ex-president and indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic, who she accuses of large-scale corruption.

The United States and European powers have supported Mrs. Plavsic in her bid to dissolve parliament and call new elections.

Hardliners drew international condemnation when they defied Mrs. Plavsic and held an assembly session over the weekend. Mr. Karadzic's party rewrote laws in a bid to launch a recall vote against Mrs. Plavsic and to strip her of defence powers.

The NATO-led peace force has stepped up patrols in and around Banja Luka to prevent a possible clash between Mrs. Plavsic's supporters, which include military police, and Mr. Karadzic's security units.

The Bosnian Serb Army, demoralised by purges and poor financial support, has vowed to stay out of the dispute but also said it recognised Mrs. Plavsic as "sup-

reme commander."

Army Chief General Pero Colic met Mrs. Plavsic Sunday in her Banja Luka offices as nervous policemen stood guard.

Supporters of Mrs. Plavsic have held large rallies in Banja Luka during the past two days and said they expected a similar demonstration in the eastern town of Bijeljina Sunday.

U.S. special envoy Robert Gelbard said the conflict in Serb territory would be discussed by members of the NATO alliance at a summit in Madrid Sunday.

Mr. Gelbard issued tough warnings to the hardliners Saturday, saying the interior minister was playing with fire by refusing to reform his police force under terms of the peace treaty.

Diplomats said Western governments were demanding Mr. Karadzic's party allow Mrs. Plavsic access to the official television network or face unspecified consequences.

Mediators were concerned that two rival governments would emerge in the western and eastern halves of Serb territory, one in Banja

Luka, and one directed by Mr. Karadzic in Pale, outside Sarajevo.

Although Mrs. Plavsic remains a Nationalist ideologue, Western envoys say she has been willing to cooperate with efforts to enforce the Dayton Peace Accords to win reconstruction aid and end the Serbs' diplomatic isolation.

Mr. Karadzic, twice indicted by a U.N. War Crimes Tribunal, reluctantly stepped down as president last year under international pressure but continues to wield influence.

An American newspaper reported Sunday that U.S. Special Forces and the CIA had prepared a secret plan to capture Mr. Karadzic but President Bill Clinton had not formally approved it.

Quoting U.S. intelligence sources, the Los Angeles Times said the plan was a response to increasing concerns in Washington that Mr. Karadzic was a major threat to efforts at building a lasting peace in former Yugoslavia.



Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic (centre) waves to supporters during rally in the northern Bosnian town of Banja Luka. Thousands of people demonstrated for the second day running as hardliners held an assembly session that international envoys dismissed as illegal. International mediators sided with Mrs. Plavsic in her battle with government hardliners (Reuters photo)

Scientist: Che's remains are in mass grave

VALLEGRANDE (R) — A Cuban scientist leading a team exhuming a mass grave in a remote Bolivian village said Saturday he believed he had found the remains of legendary leftist guerrilla Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

"I have the personal conviction... there are serious signs that this is Che," Doctor Jorge Gonzalez told reporters in the village of Vallegrande in southeastern Bolivia.

One of seven skeletons found in the mass grave by the team of Cuban and Argentine scientists has a skull matching Che's heavy facial features and his hands are missing, he said.

The Bolivian troops who executed Che in October 1967 cut off his hands as proof they had killed him before burying him in a secret location.

But Dr. Gonzalez said that final identification of the remains — one of five skeletons exhumed from the grave Saturday to be transferred to a laboratory installed in the Vallegrande village hospital — would require several days of tests.

Ironically, the Senor De Malta Hospital was where Bolivian troops laid out Guevara's partly naked body in front of international photographers on Oct. 10, 1967.

Scientists think the other remains in the grave are those of Che's hapless band of Cuban, Bolivian and Peruvian rebels.

The Argentine-born leftist icon and hero of Cuba's revolution was trying to export communism to South America's mainland when he was captured — wounded and starving — on Oct. 8, 1967 and shot by a soldier in the village school.

Bolivia began the quest for Guevara's bones in December, 1995 after retired General Mario Vargas Salinas broke two decades of military silence to say he could identify the spot where he ordered the burial of the guerrillas.

He failed to locate the exact spot and the search



Argentine and Cuban scientists (clockwise left to right) Carlos Somigliano (Arg.), Patricia Bernardi (Arg.), Hector Soto (Cub.), Alejandro Inchaurregui (Arg.), and Roberto Rodriguez (Cub.), discuss their findings during the continuing exhumation of seven skeletons believed to belong to Che Guevara's guerrillas in this Southern Bolivian village where the rebel leader and his guerrillas fought the Bolivian Army 30 years ago. The discovery of a seventh body added to the scientists' hopes that Guevara's body is amongst those buried in this common grave (Reuters photo)

has since been repeatedly suspended and resumed, with excavations centering on an airstrip outside Vallegrande, 775 kilometres southeast of La Paz.

The search was relaunched in May based on new evidence, including

that of a truck driver who said he transported the bodies of Guevara and his comrades.

Impoverished Vallegrande has already declared Guevara's bones, when they are found, "the patrimony of the region" with plans to devel-

op a local tourist industry around them.

But Bolivia's government plans to give them to Guevara's family, and his Cuban wife, Aleida March, has requested they be sent back to the Caribbean island for a final burial.

Mexican officials think drug kingpin is dead

MEXICO CITY (R) — Mexican officials said Sunday they suspected a corpse in northern Mexico might be that of notorious drug lord Amado Carrillo Fuentes, but they needed further tests on the body to be certain.

The Attorney General's Office (PGR) said in a statement that because of extensive plastic surgery, investigators were not sure the body belonged to Carrillo.

A man calling himself Antonio Flores Montes — but believed to be the cocaine baron — checked into a Mexico City hospital last Thursday for plastic surgery and died early Friday while recovering, the statement said.

Early Saturday the body was flown on a commercial airline to the northwestern state of Sinaloa, where Carrillo's family lives, and taken to a local funeral parlor, where it lay untouched until police arrived to investigate.

"We have suspicion that Mr. Flores Montes could in reality be Amado Carrillo Fuentes," said the statement, released late Saturday.

"But despite that in the investigation to date the body of the so-called Antonio Flores Montes is that of Amado Carrillo Fuentes, the Attorney General's Office cannot now say this with absolute certainty," it added.

The office said the man in question had undergone eight hours of extensive plastic surgery and liposuction at Mexico City's Santa Monica Hospital. It added it was questioning hospital staff about the incident.

Carrillo's family claimed the body as that of Mexico's most wanted trafficker, but investigators would carry out a more extensive autopsy, the prosecutor's office said.

Aurora Fuentes De Carrillo, the kingpin's mother, told reporters of her son's death earlier in the day at her luxury ranch in the village of Guamuchilito in Sonora. Rumours of his death began to fly late Friday.

"Yes, the rumours are true," said the elderly woman when asked about her son, head of the powerful Juarez Cartel in the northern city of Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas.

Large red floral wreaths, some from rival drug traffickers, arrived at the home of the drug capo's mother, radio reports said.

Taleban, opposition jets bomb cities

KABUL (R) — Taleban warplanes bombed the opposition-held northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif Sunday and opposition jets struck back at Kabul, witnesses said.

Aid workers in Mazar-i-Sharif said Taleban planes dropped two bombs in the early hours, one near the airport and one near the university. They had no word on casualties.

Warplanes of the anti-Taleban alliance then bombed Kabul at dawn Sunday in the second such raid in 48 hours.

Taleban officials said one bomb had hit the airport, in a northeastern district, without damaging the runway, but could not say where two other bombs heard by residents had landed.

Residents awoke to a deafening anti-aircraft barrage as Taleban gunners fired on two jets flying high over the city.

Taleban forces fought through the night in the vicinity of Jabal Os-Siraj, a strategic town about 70 kilometres north of Kabul.

gaining more ground, according to the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) news service.

AIP said the Taleban had killed at least 27 fighters loyal to former government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood and captured 80. Four Taleban were killed and several wounded.

It said the fighting had put the Taleban in control of an area containing five villages east of the Salang Highway. Mr. Masood controls the Salang Pass north of Jabal Os-Siraj, as well as his native Panjsher Valley north-east of the town.

Sunday's raid on Kabul followed one Friday night when an opposition jet dropped two bombs on the airport. One landed in the air defence section, killing at least one Taleban fighter.

Taleban officials said there was no damage to the runway at the airport, which is used by military and civilian aircraft.

Friday's air strike appeared to be retaliation for last week's Taleban bombing raids on Maimana, capi-

tal of the northeastern province of Faryab, held by forces loyal to northern opposition leader General Abdul Malik.

A spokesman for Gen. Malik, General Humayun Fauzi, said Friday that Taleban raids had killed 90 people in Maimana within 48 hours, including 40 Taleban prisoners.

Gen. Fauzi said two Taleban officials, Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammad Ghous and Civil Aviation Minister Maulvi Akhter Mohammad Mansoor were among 30 wounded in the bombing.

But an independent military source said there had been no casualties in the raids on Maimana, which Taleban officials have said was in reprisal for earlier opposition air strikes on the Taleban-held city of Kunduz in northeastern Afghanistan.

The Taleban, who captured Kabul in September, are fighting to impose their strict Islamic rule across Afghanistan, but have failed to quell opposition forces in the north.

Storms kill 14 in southern China

BEIJING (AFP) — Heavy rainstorms sweeping through southern China since July 1 have left at least 14 dead, with a further three still missing, the Water Control Bureau for Guangdong province said Sunday.

"By the evening of July 4, we had a toll of 14 dead and three still missing," said a bureau spokeswoman, who said the flooding was the worst in decades, but re-

fused to provide other details.

According to the provincial Yangcheng Evening News, five of the dead were swept into a river in the Maoming region when the bridge they were crossing collapsed.

In Qingyuan, north of the provincial capital of Guangzhou, 9,000 people were cut off by rising waters and all along the southern coast that borders onto Hong

Kong, landslides were bringing havoc to road transport.

The newspaper put total economic losses in excess of 300 million yuan (\$36 million) and warned that the situation could deteriorate as floodwaters continued to rise.

Hong Kong has also been hit by the rainstorms, with an average six months worth of rain falling within a week in some places.

Taiwan mulls whipping, caning of criminals to stop rising crime wave

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan Justice Minister Liao Cheng-Hao hinted corporal punishment such as whipping and caning may be introduced into the legal system to check the worsening crime wave, news reports said Sunday.

The Justice Ministry is seriously thinking about following in the foot steps of Singapore and Malaysia to add physical punishments to the legal system," Mr. Liao said, the Central Daily News reported.

But he added the controversial punishments, such as whipping or caning, would be imposed only if domestic social order kept declining and at the request of "the great majority of the public."

Mr. Liao admitted the idea of adopting stringent punishment was a response to some citizens and legislators alarmed at the rising crime wave sweeping the island.

The remarks, however, sparked opposition from organisations and parliamentarians.

"Safeguarding human rights is listed on our party platform, and the party strongly opposes the uncivilised caning punishment that would tarnish Taiwan's international image," the Taiwan Independence Party said in a statement released Sunday.

MP Hsueh Chi-Ta of the New Party said she was shocked upon learning the report.

"It was understandable that the public were outraged at the criminals in connection with shocking crimes," said Ms. Hsueh, a prosecutor-turned politician.

But she warned against allowing prevailing public sentiment to control legislators and law-enforcement officers.

"They must face such problems calmly," Ms. Hsueh said.

Some 50,000 Taiwanese took to Taipei streets on May 4 in a mass rally calling for the government's resignation following the murder of an actress's daughter which outraged

the country.

There has been heated debate over the relatively lenient parole system following disclosures that two of the gang members involved in the kidnapping and killing had criminal records and were on parole.

At least three gang leaders are still at large.

Two other murders have also remained unsolved including the killing of Taoyuan County Magistrate Lin Pang-You and seven others at his residence in November. Women's rights activist Peng Wan-Ju was raped and died of 39 knife wounds in the same month.

In March 1994, Singapore sparked an outcry in the United States and other countries for sentencing American teenager Michael Fay to four months in prison and four strokes of the cane for vandalism.

Singapore carried out the caning sentence despite international pressure and defended its right to enact and enforce legislation without foreign interference.

Authorities move to protect Australia's 'Jurassic Tree'

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australian authorities are moving to protect the prehistoric Wollemi Pine, which is threatened with extinction after surviving for millions of years in an isolated pocket of National Park near here.

The "Jurassic Tree" is only known to exist in the Wollemi National Park northwest of Sydney, where it was found in December 1994 in what botanists hailed as one of the most exciting discoveries of the century.

Its existence was previously known only through fossils and the discovery was described at the time as

"the botanic equivalent of finding a living dinosaur."

A draft plan aimed at protecting the 40 adult plants and 200 juveniles will be released Monday by the New South Wales State government.

"The pine has survived millions of years, but only just. The key objective of this plan is to increase the species' chances of survival through proper management regimes and research," said State Environment Minister Pam Allan.

"All written submissions will be considered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and will help shape the final version of the

Wollemi Pine species recovery plan," she said in a statement.

Ms. Allan said the plan was the first of its kind to be completed in the Sydney area under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, where it is listed as endangered.

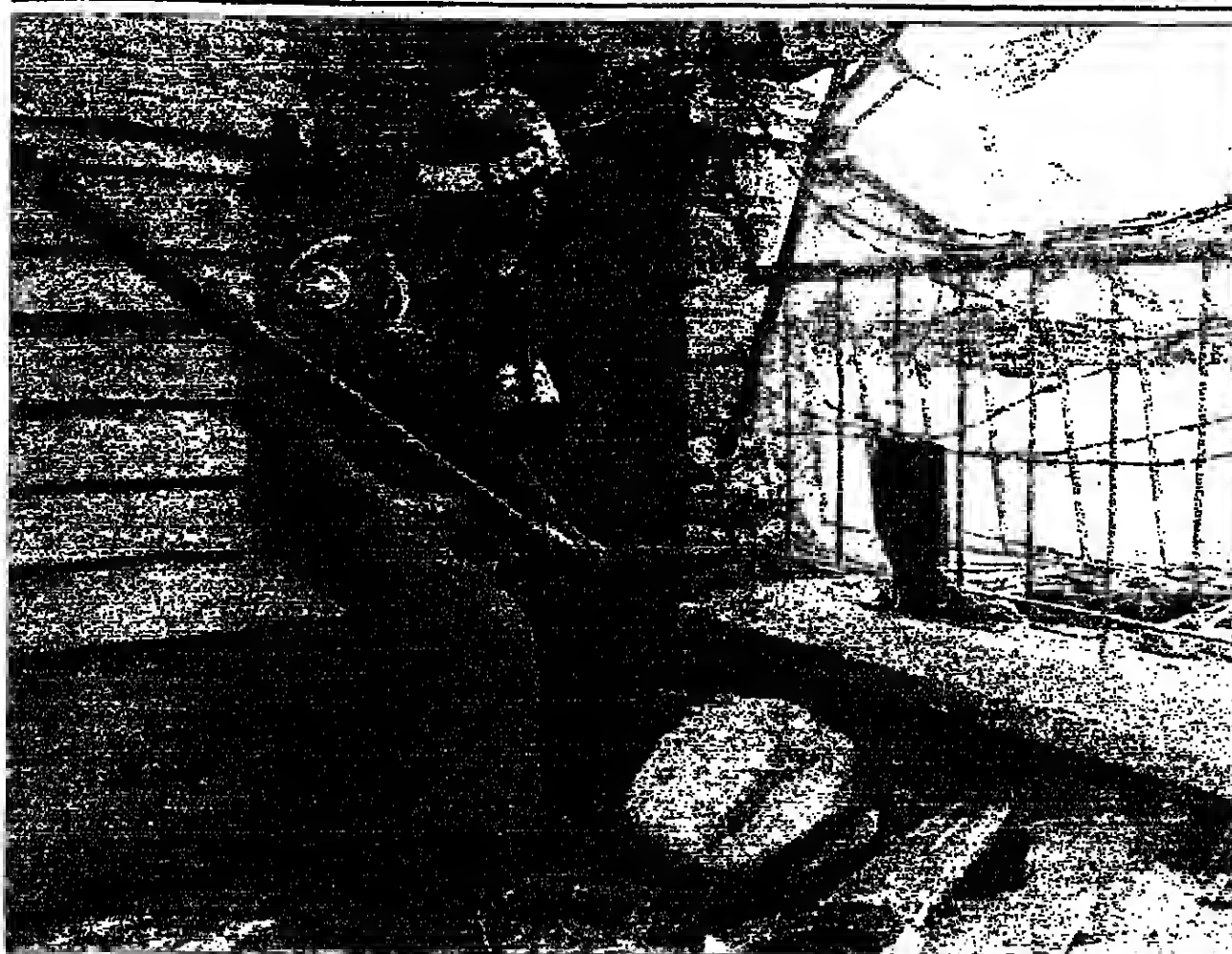
"The species has to be one of the world's greatest findings and has attracted worldwide interest from scientists to the general community and, as a result, its security is a top priority."

Within a few years, Australians will be able to buy their own Wollemi Pine. Ms. Allan said, under a plan to commercialise and prop-

agate seedlings of the three-metre (10-foot) wide, 40-metre (130-foot) tree.

The Wollemi Pine's home — a nearly inaccessible gorge in a rainforest which has survived 65 million years of natural disasters — is still only known to a select few.

It was discovered by a National Parks and Wildlife Service Project Officer David Noble who aiseiled into the gorge during a weekend's hushrekking at Wollemi Park named after an Aboriginal word meaning "look around you."



A Cambodian soldier loyal to Second Prime Minister Hun Sen keeps a close eye on the streets during fighting in Phnom Penh. Forces loyal to Cambodia's co-premiers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, clashed on the outskirts of Phnom Penh after a long feud over power sharing and how to resolve the Khmer Rouge issue (Reuters photo)

Sri Lanka on alert for 'Black July' as Tamil deputy killed

COLOMBO (R) — Security was bolstered in Sri Lanka Sunday after the death of a Tamil parliamentary deputy in a grenade attack, as the country braced for possible further assaults in what is an important month for Tamil Tiger rebels.

Bandula Wickramasinghe, deputy chief of the police Criminal Investigation Department, was quoted by the Sunday Times as saying that police had received information about several LTTE suicide bombers infiltrating Colombo.

Several new military checkpoints sprung up overnight and police and army had cordoned off key civil and military installations.

Police blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the killing of Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) legislator Arunasalam Thangathurai and four others in a grenade attack in the eastern port city of Trincomalee Saturday.

They said Thangathurai, his bodyguard, and three others were killed when LTTE rebels lobbed a grenade at them at a function to inaugurate a new school building in Trincomalee. At least 15 people were also wounded in the attack.

An LTTE spokesman in London told Reuters late Saturday that he had no information about the attack.

The TULF, one of the mainline Tamil political parties in Sri Lanka, supports the ruling People's Alliance government of President Chandrika Kumaratunga in parliament.

July is a critical month for Sri Lanka as the LTTE rebels commemorate several events that have special significance in the 13-year-old ethnic conflict.

"We are not taking any chances and a top security alert is being maintained," a top police official said.

Military officials said

troops attempting to open a strategic highway to link the former rebel stronghold of Jaffna with the rest of the island through the brush jungles of the northern Wanni region were also on high alert.

Officials in the north said LTTE rebels had mounted a mortar attack on the military's positions near Periyamadu, north of the government-held town of Vavuniya, late Saturday and wounded four air force personnel guarding the defenses.

Vavuniya lies some 220 kilometres north of the capital Colombo.

On Saturday, the rebels celebrated "Black Tigers Day" in memory of their suicide fighters who died in attacks against the Sri Lankan military.

The clandestine Voice of Tigers Radio, monitored in Vavuniya, said Sunday that oil lamps were lit and public meetings held in the Wanni region in the memory of the suicide fighters.

Later this month, on 23 July, is the 14th anniversary of Sri Lanka's ethnic war, in which the government says more than 50,000 people have been killed. The LTTE says the toll is higher.

The war started after the LTTE killed 13 soldiers in Jaffna in July 1983. Islandwide anti-Tamil riots followed, claiming at least 400 lives.

Last year, on July 18, the rebels overran a large military camp in northeastern Mullaitivu and reports said they killed or captured the entire garrison of more than 1,000 troops.

A few days later suspected Tamil separatists detonated two time bombs on a packed commuter train in a Colombo suburb.

The bombs ripped apart two coaches of the train as it pulled out of the Dehiwela Station, killing 57 people and wounding more than 500. A third bomb was defused.

Meanwhile, the Sunday Leader newspaper quoting military officials said Sri Lanka's military is hunting for more than 10,000 deserters.

The paper said military police had launched a country-wide search for deserters and have sought Interpol's help to locate soldiers who have fled the country.

It said more than 30,000 soldiers had deserted the army since 1995, but some 20,000 had returned after an amnesty offer last year.

The newspaper quoted officials as saying that two officers of the Sri Lanka Air Force, who had fled to work with the Onan Royal Air Force, had been arrested and brought back.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told reporters last week that the army had announced a crackdown on deserters.

"Deserters will be court-martialled when they are arrested," he said. He added that in one of the first examples of the stricter penalties, a soldier had been given three years' rigorous imprisonment for deserting his post in the war against the LTTE rebels.

Three other soldiers were also facing court-martial.

The Sunday Leader said military officials were investigating the reasons behind the high rate of desertion in the nearly 100,000 strong Sri Lankan army.

The armed forces recently launched slick advertising campaigns on television and other media and introduced walk-in interviews to attract recruits to fill depleted ranks.

Albania votes again; Socialists set for landslide

TIRANA (R) — Albanian voters went to the polls Sunday in a runoff for an election already won by the ex-Communist Socialists to decide how big a majority they will have over President Sali Berisha's right-wing Democratic Party.

Around half a million Albanians were scheduled to vote in 34 districts where no candidate managed to win an overall majority in last Sunday's first round of voting.

The Socialists, reformed heirs of the hardline Communists led by isolationist Enver Hoxha for four decades, have already been declared the winners of the election based on still incomplete results, gaining over 80 of the 155 seats with more likely to come.

The runoff will determine whether the Socialists, along with their allies the Social Democrats and the Democratic Alliance, will gain a two-thirds majority that would enable them to get important legislation through parliament.

With the outcome already known, Sunday's runoff vote held in blazing sunshine was low-key, though the Democratic Party complained of threats and intimidation in some districts.

"It is quiet today, and people are not so concerned because the Democrats have already lost," pensioner Sali Spahiu told Reuters as he voted in central Tirana.

Like thousands of others, Mr. Spahiu sold his house and sunk the proceeds into dubious pyramid savings schemes that collapsed earlier this year, leaving him penniless and now living in rented accommodation.

Lull in Cambodia fighting as curfew takes effect

PHNOM PENH (R) — Fighting in the Cambodian capital appeared to have stopped late Sunday as a curfew came into effect after a second day of heavy fighting between troops loyal to the country's rival prime ministers.

It was unclear whether this was just a temporary lull, or whether the battles were over for the night.

The Cambodian capital had been rocked by heavy fighting earlier in the day as forces under Second Prime Minister Hun Sen appeared to tighten their grip on the city.

Shelling and small arms fire began before dawn and continued sporadically through the day, spreading into the heart of Phnom Penh as Mr. Hun Sen's forces battled those of First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

There was heavy fighting around Prince Ranariddh's official residence Sunday evening and one city official said a white flag had been raised at the building. A military analyst said the prince's residence was not an important military target and the surrender of a handful of security men there was no major development.

He said forces loyal to Prince Ranariddh still controlled their main military facilities and he expected more fighting Monday. Prince Ranariddh's

FUNCINPEC party headquarters and the French embassy next door were both heavily damaged by shellfire, officials said.

By Sunday afternoon troops loyal to Mr. Hun Sen were moving through the city street by street as heavy fighting continued around pockets held by Prince Ranariddh's men.

Military officials loyal to Mr. Hun Sen said they were demanding the surrender of Prince Ranariddh's troops protecting some of his facilities. But Prince Ranariddh's top military commander, General Nhiek Bun Chhay, vowed earlier that there would be no surrender.

At least 12 people had been killed and more than 50 wounded since the violence began, hospital sources said. A 38-year-old Japanese man died from his wounds after a rocket hit his house, a Foreign Ministry official in Tokyo said.

An official at one city hospital said medical supplies would start running out if the fighting continued much longer.

The heaviest fighting raged around key facilities under the control of forces loyal to Prince Ranariddh, including a well-defended compound, a base near the international airport, Prince Ranariddh's party headquarters and his residence — all protected by his secu-

rity men and troops.

A huge cloud of black smoke from a burning fuel station or factory hung over the city in the afternoon as several other buildings burned in the vicinity of the fighting.

Local authorities declared a curfew from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. (1300 to 2300 GMT). The road to the airport remained closed and all flights in and out of the city were cancelled.

"We've been hit by some heavy cannon," an official at the French embassy said. "The ambassador's office and the office of the military attaché were completely destroyed."

France is the former colonial power in Cambodia but there was no suggestion that the building had been deliberately targeted.

Fifteen embassy staff, French and Cambodian, were in the embassy when it was hit but none was injured, he said. The embassy official said Mr. Hun Sen's troops appeared to have taken control of the FUNCINPEC headquarters next door.

U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Quinn told reporters many soldiers loyal to Mr. Hun Sen were moving around his embassy. He said he had forcefully conveyed his concerns to officials from both sides.

"People don't deserve to be caught up in fighting like

this," Mr. Quinn said. As booms echoed over the riverside city during the day, thousands of people laden with bundles of clothes, food and televisions streamed out of neighborhoods where the fighting was heaviest. Many said they were leaving the city.

Markets opened briefly just after dawn and shoppers said prices had doubled overnight.

Hotels were packed with local residents, political officials and diplomats seeking refuge. Some hotel managers said they were running out of food.

Prince Ranariddh said in a statement from Paris that Mr. Hun Sen was attempting a coup. Radio and television stations controlled by Mr. Hun Sen denied a coup was under way and urged people to remain calm as government troops were only fighting Khmer Rouge rebels.

Radio and television stations controlled by Prince Ranariddh's party were off the air and most international and local telephone lines were down.

A member of Prince Ranariddh's cabinet who was holed up at the prince's walled, city-centre compound told Reuters by telephone that the compound was under intermittent fire and one explosion had severely damaged one of the buildings there.

Mars rover deployed on surface of red planet

PASADENA (R) — The Pathfinder mission's Mars rover was parked in the Martian dust for the night early Sunday before starting its exploration of the fourth planet from the Sun after earthrise.

After a day of suspense for U.S. space officials, the rover rolled out of the Pathfinder lander onto the surface of the "red planet" late Saturday.

"The first rover is on the surface of Mars," an ecstatic rover project manager Jake Matijevic told a late-night news conference.

"The images you see today show a completely deployed rover, driven down a perfectly deployed ramp and making its first track in the soil of this planet, opening a new era of exploration," he continued.

Richard Cook, the Pathfinder mission manager, was equally elated: "I didn't think we could top yesterday, but I certainly feel that way today," he said, referring to Friday's landing on Mars by the Pathfinder vehicle.

"We've got some great

images and all the scientists are in red heaven," he told reporters as some 70 members of the Pathfinder flight team whooped and shouted with joy.

Pictures transmitted from the surface of the planet showed the high-tech dune buggy named Sojourner sitting about a vehicle's length away from the lander. One image taken by the rover's binocular camera showed the ramp as it drove slowly down the 35-degree slope.

A distinct track from the six-wheeled rover was visible — the first sign of terrestrial life since the Viking missions of the 1970s took thousands of photographs. A mission control technician spliced together several still frames of the rollout, to produce a short movie of the rover as it took about four minutes to drive down the ramp and onto the surface of Mars.

About an hour after it came down the ramp, the entire Pathfinder system was shut down for the night as the Earth set over Mars. According to Mr. Cook, the rover, a 10 kilogramme

vehicle resembling a workbench or microwave oven on wheels, was to begin work Sunday analysing rocks and soil. In addition to its on-board laboratory, it is equipped with lasers that will help it navigate the Martian terrain.

A camera on the lander will begin taking high-resolution photographs of the region in order to chart the solar-powered Sojourner's exploration over the next week.

Earlier in the day, the successful deployment had been in doubt when National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials struggled to overcome a communications problem between the rover and the lander.

System engineer Matt Wallace, announcing the glitch had been resolved, said the specific cause of the communications problem was not clear but that it was believed to be in the software. Data indicated the lander vehicle's computer re-set itself Friday night and may have been awaiting further instructions from

Mission Control.

The news ended some twelve hours of nail-biting tension at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory here as space engineers and technicians worked to salvage the \$260-million Pathfinder mission.

Pathfinder crash-landed on the fourth rock from the Sun Friday after a journey of 497 million kilometres since being launched from Cape Canaveral last Dec. 4.

The mission marks the beginning of an ambitious U.S. programme over the next decade to explore Mars and determine if it ever supported any life forms.

Sojourner cannot communicate directly with Earth. Its signals must go through the lander and if the problem had not been solved, mission control would have been unable to control the movements of the Mars rover.

Meanwhile the Pathfinder lander, which was re-named after the late legendary NASA scientist and author Carl Sagan, continued to send spectacular images back to Earth.

Prince Charles' lover came near suicide — paper

LONDON (R) — Camilla Parker Bowles, lover of Britain's royal heir Prince Charles, was driven to the brink of suicide after he admitted their adultery in a television interview, a Sunday newspaper said.

She thought she had been abandoned by Prince Charles after the 1994 interview and feared she had become the most hated woman in Britain, the Sunday Mirror said.

Ms. Parker Bowles provoked widespread public hostility as the woman who caused the breakdown of Prince Charles' 15-year marriage to Princess Diana, which ended in divorce in 1996.

Camilla is the subject of a documentary expected to be shown on British television Sunday, which has prompted speculation that Britain is being prepared for her to play a more public role at Prince Charles' side.

Until now she has said nothing in public about her long-running relationship with Prince Charles, but some of her supporters have said the two divorcees should now be allowed to marry.

The Sunday Mirror said the prince had subsequently told Camilla that he dared not contact her after the interview because her home was surrounded by photographers and he feared that a telephone call might be intercepted.

His fears followed the allegedly bugged "Camillagate" tapes of a late-night intimate conversation he had had with her in 1989.

The Sunday Mirror quoted a source close to Ms. Camilla as saying she was "desperately unhappy and afraid" after the prince's public admission.

The source added: "I can tell you that putting an end to it all crossed her mind more than once."

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Eye on ethics

THERE IS no discounting that problems do exist in the Kingdom's tour guide ranks. But help is on the way, says the Ministry of Tourism. After various complaints of uninformative, untidy, and unaccommodating guides, to even more serious allegations of attempted bribery, the ministry has brought together industry professionals (public and private), as well as academics to see what can be done to set standards for the country's tour guides and monitor their performance. One suggestion that may or may not have occurred to the standard-setters and monitors would be to first evaluate potential tour guides for a sense of their work ethic. A professionally designed set of questions posed in a personal interview prior to an applicant's enrolment in the obligatory tour guide course could help to sift out the less principled contenders. Motivation for applying for such a career would be a key factor. If the answer was simply monetary gain, those conducting the evaluation should be wary. All the lessons in ancient and contemporary history of the country, foreign languages, hygiene and grooming will add up to precious little if tourists, shop-owners, restaurateurs and investors are going to be haggled by greedy and unscrupulous tour guides, who, even if they make up only a small segment of the lot, could have the effect of the one rotten apple. Perhaps various incentives could be considered, such as discounts at restaurants, hotels, recreational clubs, and car rental agencies. With a few added perks, tour guides may be less inclined to focus on making an extra dinar per head when they bring their groups to a particular shop or restaurant and expect the proprietor to dole out the "commission." In the end, the subject at heart here is service. The committee, whose formation was helmed, would certainly benefit by keeping in mind that in all the country's sectors which serve the public, self-esteem is the single most important factor to be encouraged.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm criticised Jordanian columnists and editorial writers in the local and weekly press who, he said, have launched an attack on the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan for exposing the truth through its surveys on democracy and other issues. It is a regrettable attack on the centre whose findings have shocked the public with the truth about columnists' writings and the low rate of popularity of writers and the fact that the Jordanians read very little of their work, said Mohammad Subeih. Last month, noted the writer, the centre published the results of an opinion poll about democracy in Jordan which, among other things, revealed that the public is interested only in the writings of a handful of columnists. But the findings have angered these writers who, instead of improving their work, have started to accuse the centre of lacking credibility and not conducting its poll on sound, scientific basis, the writer pointed out. He said that the director of the centre, who has expressed readiness to open the files that revealed the truth to any researcher or journalist, says that he was not approached by anyone who is interested in the bare truth. The writer said that the attack on the centre is tantamount to assassinating one of Jordan's esteemed institutions, something which, he said, is more horrible than shooting people.

TAREQ MASARWEH, a writer for Al Ra'i, Sunday described the defamation of Prophet Mohammad in a cartoon distributed in the West Bank town of Hebron was not the work of an individual extremist Zionist but rather part of an orchestrated campaign waged by Israel against the Arabs and their religious beliefs. Saying that the defamation reflects the Zionists' deep hatred of the Arabs and Muslims, the writer said the apology which the Arabs heard coming from the Israeli president and his prime minister was meaningless. The Arabs ought to remember that following the massacre of women and children in the Palestinian town of Deir Yassin, the Israeli leaders expressed their condemnation of the horrible attack which, said the writer, resulted in the eviction of the Arab population from their homeland. The Israelis have annexed Arab Jerusalem, with its Muslim and Christian holy places, but this move drew no reaction from Islamic nations like Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia and Iran, while the Christian West condoned the annexation, accepting the Zionists' distortion of the Christian holy sites, noted the writer. He said the Zionists realise that the eviction of Arabs from their homeland and judaising it cannot be complete without cutting the religious links they might still have with their religious shrines and so they initiated their present attack on their faith, Islam.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

The new Israeli finance minister and hoping that 'wise guys will be replaced by the wise men of the East'

ISRAELI PREMIER Benjamin Netanyahu's crusade to create more intrigue during his tenure as prime minister is, unfortunately for both Arabs and Israelis, succeeding; and as an added dividend to the mayhem, he has managed to invent a twilight zone of new distrust and frustrations that only fanatics would appreciate and thrive on. This time, Bibi's fireworks wizardry is in the financial arena. Israel's ministry of finance is short of a leader, and thanks to Netanyahu the post has been promised to Israel's minister of infrastructure (responsible for creating more settlements and roads on confiscated Arab lands); Israel's finances are being linked to land as Ariel Sharon pounces on the idea of leading the Israeli economy through the trough of what seems to be the sad part of the business cycle, the downside.

Jacob Frenkel, one of Israel's and possibly the Middle East's top economists, is heading the Israeli central bank. His policies have proven to be sound up to now, and his independence, in spite of the previous finance minister's haranguing, has been maintained. Frenkel sees monetary policy as a price stabilisation policy and a tool for countering inflation, which he wants to lower to 9.2 per cent this year. He says that money does not create jobs (something which most economists would agree with), and its control brings price stability. His recent call to move towards full convertibility of the Israeli shekel and towards allowing the shekel to fluctuate have been criticised by Dan Meridor, the last minister of finance, as a cause for weakening the Israeli export base.

But his ability to steer Israeli monetary policy will be strongly challenged, if not handicapped, by the entry into

the financial scene of Ariel Sharon whose lack of knowledge of finance, past military zeal (an independent court in Israel determined that he was indirectly responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacres in 1983), right-wing leanings, and his so-called international experience (recently, he boasted of being the only Israeli leader capable of delivering peace) should qualify him for this post (or so he thinks). His agenda includes the expansion of the powers of the ministry of finance to include the Water and Lands Authority, which controls more than 90 per cent of the lands in Israel, and his admission to the inner security council of Israel — a finance-related matter, or so he assures us, and something that befits his past military experience.

Sharon's monetary policy will be expansionary (the government had pledged to cut the budget deficit from 4 per cent to 2.8 per cent of the GDP this year, which is almost over, and to 1.5 per cent by the year 2000) as he fights to lower the interest rate and secure more funds for building more settlements. This would be his strategy for helping the Israeli fledgling economy whose growth is expected to slow down to 2.8 per cent this year, down by a full 1.6 per cent from 4.4 per cent in 1996, with unemployment having risen to 7.2 per cent (unemployment started to rise immediately after the start of the almost chaotic Netanyahu regime).

Some economic observers would claim, in all fairness to Netanyahu, that his government came at the beginning of the downturn in the business cycle, which would not be completely untrue; however, most would also agree that his destabilisation policies have not helped the econ-

omy either.

So what should become of the economic scene as the Israeli economy imposes a person of Sharon's qualities at the helm of Israeli finances? Nothing perceptible, we hope.

Some in Israel believe that the Israeli economy is more oriented towards Western economies and will most likely not benefit from peace with the Arab World: Israeli needs and interests are best served in the West because of the size and quality of demand there vis-à-vis the Arab markets. Such a belief should be only true in the short run; it ignores the benefits that could arise from a fair and just coexistence.

Time and time again, both Israelis and Arabs must be reminded that even the most hateful thoughts and people shall perish and the wisdom of trust and human respect will prevail in the end. As the humiliation subsides, the art of commerce and trade between neighbouring countries and peoples will create more wealth and prosperity to all.

The issue at hand, to all parties, is not to view the present \$4 million worth of trade between Jordan and Israel, or the Israeli monopolisation of control over the West Bank and Gaza market, worth \$3 billion, as the peace dividend. One must look further and beyond, at joint projects and cooperation for the benefit of all. But then, if one is to really want to imagine an era of peace and cooperation, one should maybe close his/her eyes every day for a moment and dream that Netanyahu's term will soon be over and pray that wise guys will be replaced by the wise men of the East.

Hong Kong and Israel — where 'coercive jurisdiction cannot flourish'

By Abba Eban

The writer is a former foreign minister of Israel. This article is reprinted from the July 4 issue of the Israeli newspaper, the Jerusalem Post.

IT SEEMS a far cry from Hong Kong to Israel, but the two scenarios have a common theme. It tells us that coercive jurisdiction cannot flourish in the modern world. There is no room today for structures that are not based on legitimacy and consent.

On the morrow of the six day war, Israeli opinion was divided between two contrasting visions of the nation's future.

The first was the understanding that the captured territories could, at most, become valuable counters in an eventual search for agreement.

History is not kind to those who come to the negotiating table with nothing to confer or withhold. Israel seemed to have emerged from that condition into a real negotiating capacity.

In that perspective, Israel's new gains, enhanced by memories of a brilliant military campaign, offered the chance of exchanging the rump of military conquest for a new map of peace.

This was firm, concrete realism, reflecting the true movement and impulse of the modern world.

It came upon a scene marked by disintegrating empires which had learned that military conquest is a slender, fleeting basis for any permanent regional order. This vision envisaged the territories in strictly tactical terms.

The second — competing vision professed to see a chance of maintaining the military results of the six day war as Israel's permanent strategy.

This was, in part, a justified ecstatic reaction to the military triumph. But its main strength derived from biblical, messianic emotions — that sprang from ancient memories. It never had any foundation in current power balances.

To believe this vision it was necessary to assume that the Arab World would "adapt itself" to the loss of territories regarded by the entire world community as belonging to Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian state or Syria.

How or why anybody would believe "this" was never explained by those who professed to put their faith in it.

In 1996, an Israeli government came to power with the idea of an enlarged Israel as its central ideological premise. This is still the official Israeli ideology, although it has been seriously diminished in its practical application.

Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu's rhetoric is full of visions in which the whole world "adapts itself" to Israel determinations. The world community will "adapt itself" to the results of the Likud's political victory. The Palestinians will "adapt themselves" to a status markedly inferior to that of the neighbouring Israelis.

The Middle East will "adapt itself" to the primacy of Israel as the region's economic and technological leader. Syria will "adapt itself" to a unilateral Israeli definition of the Golan's place in Israel's history.

The trouble with these formulations is that they do not require Israel to adapt itself to any principle of regional compromise. In this vision, Israel will manage to enforce settlements in an age in which enforced settlements have lost all or most of their traditional power.

The trial of strength between the tactical and the strategic doctrines concerning the Middle East came during the period of Israel's rule over the captured territories.

The Israeli map extending from the Suez Canal to the Golan was seen by many of our citizens as a guarantee of security and stability. It turned out to be nothing of the kind.

Israel has never known less security than during the period of the Big Map. The security weakness was illustrated by an intolerable price of

blood: 650 Israelis fallen in the war of attrition between 1967 and 1970; 700 lost in the superfluous entry into Lebanon in 1982; 2,500 fallen during the protection of Israeli gains in Sinai; and a sharp contraction of Israel's diplomatic map, together with the expansion of our military map, and a debilitating bout of high inflation during the Lebanon war.

Many of these symptoms were overcome by the Oslo agreements and the consequent aftermath of diminished losses. There was no Israeli domestic protest against the evacuation of Israeli forces from Nablus, Gaza, Jenin, Tulkarm, Ramallah, Jericho and Bethlehem — not even after the withdrawal from Hebron.

But a renewed intifada arising from the continuing closure of the territories and the deadlock in the negotiating process forbids complacency.

The logic of Hong Kong — "one state, two systems" — will be tried and tested in Hong Kong. Its modern counterpart would be two states, Israeli and Palestinian, built around the partition idea which had Israelis dancing in the streets in the dawn of Israel's independence 50 years ago.

Hardly anyone, Israeli or Palestinian, has had an irrepressible urge to celebrate anything in our region since then.

LETTERS

Mutual respect makes all happy

To the Editor:

ON JUNE 28 I read Karen Asfour's letter "Protecting domestic workers"; as a Filipina working here, and in the name of all the compatriots I know, I would like to thank Ms. Asfour for her concern.

I have been working in Jordan as a domestic helper for about four years. I am a very lucky person because I work in a very nice and kind family. They treat me like their family and I am always happy in their house. I feel very sad when I read or hear anything bad happening to some Filipinas in Jordan. All they want to do is make and save money for their families in the Philippines.

Unfortunately, some of them here are being abused. Families in Jordan should be understanding and try to help them. I hope they will all treat domestic helpers like human beings and respect their rights. It is the only way to make everyone happy.

E. Parillo,
Amman.

No judgement without proof

To the Editor:

AS AN employer of a maid who recently "ran away" I feel compelled to reply to Karen Asfour's recent letters regarding abuse of domestic help.

I have to ask whether Ms. Asfour fully knew both sides of the story or just the story the maid/s had to tell. In our case, the maid was treated very well, fed approximately 3,500-4,000 calories per day, had a day off each week, was given gifts and a good salary, and was treated with respect. However, she was rude, unappreciative and abusive to my family, friends and to me. She would sneer and scowl at guests, yell and spit at my family and me, would care nothing about our two children and would force us to constantly smell her bad odour by refusing to bathe properly.

During one incident while working for us, my husband asked her to clean up the water and hair she had left on the bathroom floor after bathing. She went into a rage and started banging her head against the wall. If my husband had not been there to stop her, she might have given herself a concussion or even killed herself. Who would have been blamed by everyone, then? The employer, of course.

We went to the agency and the man in charge suggested we send her home. I told him I knew she needed the job and I needed a maid and that we should be able to manage things to make everyone happy.

I changed jobs so she would have no responsibility for the children (her application said she was excellent with children). I felt we both had a contract for two years and each should honour this contract.

About a month after discussing things with the agency, our maid just left in the middle of the night (she left the door open, never thinking or caring about our toddler son who could have got up and walked into the street). She had been here six months.

Recently I got another maid (a sweet, pleasant, kind one). I paid the full fee for her.

I realise people are not all the same. But what about maids not living up to their agreements? What about fair treatment for employers? I am not independently wealthy. I am a working woman.

As in any work situation, with employers and employees there can be problems, but one should not immediately assume the employer is always at fault.

Many times people who take the side of a runaway maid without knowing all the details and facts do a lot of harm to a lot of people. Until one has hard facts and proof, judgement should be reserved. Sometimes people lie. Our ex-maid did.

Name withheld upon request

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Environmental planning — the best long-term investment for our cities

By Dr. Maher F. Abu Taleb

THE PROBLEMS regarding the environment in Jordanian cities have one thing in common: poor planning; it is not a subject that bureaucrats brought up to manage crises like to talk about.

Discussions on environmental planning for cities seem to be almost taboo. But the numerous departments found at different ministries and municipalities must make a choice: environmental planning or slow degeneration.

At a recent informal meeting of professionals held in Amman, ecologists and natural scientists were pitted against planners and engineers to define "cities." The definitions each group came up with complemented one another. Ecologists defined cities as areas where human beings have most transformed nature, where a series of new habitats for all kinds of organisms have been created.

Engineers defined cities in terms of human ingenuity used to sustain a great concentration of life a long distance from the basic water, food, energy and raw materials necessary for life.

These characteristics are all found in Jordanian cities where the impact on the environment is usually only discussed as a direct cause-and-effect issue. But the problems are seldom so simple. Mitigation of one environmental problem in Amman may produce another elsewhere. Reducing industrial effluents in Zarqa River may impose extra costs on industry, forcing wage and/or labour reduction.

The environmental problems of Jordanian cities relate to the impact of and upon climate, water, soil, flora and fauna, land forms and human health. The cost of ignoring environmental problems demonstrates how expensive and complicated regeneration and

decontamination may be.

Current policy making must counter the existing problems and recommend that future decision-making mechanisms be flexible, robust and timely enough to be able to cope effectively and rapidly with the ever growing/changing environmental problems, under an integrated planning framework.

The process of environmental policy making can thus be improved and accelerated in order to cope with a range of environmental problems facing the Kingdom, to assist in overcoming some of the more threatening environmental problems, such as water quality, and to provide further economic impetus to a growing economy.

Amman, where environmental problems are most immediate, has a population of over 1.4 million. The greater Amman area has now spread in all directions and has connected with other urban centres.

The environmental problems have changed as Amman has grown and its economic and social structures have developed. The surface and extent of the city of Amman has caused temperature rises at night, increased dust covers from particulates, water imbalances and transportation problems within and into the city.

Temperatures rise because the buildings and paved surfaces hinder the land's natural ability to reflect incoming solar radiation. When combined with the heat from burning fossil fuels, significant temperature rises occur, exacerbating heat waves that occur naturally. Because of poor air circulation around city centres, particulates are held in the air over the city, forming a haze common in semi-arid zones. Water imbalances occur because runoff patterns are altered over paved surfaces and artificial drainage structures. The

use of raw materials in the manufacturing process produces liquid and solid wastes and emissions that cause water and air pollution, as well as landfill problems.

Irbid is probably in the same position. There are enough problems already between resource use and transportation within and around the city, whose population is over three quarters of a million.

The problems of safe potable water and adequate sanitation have been solved. However, many of the engineering works need to be repaired, maintained and expanded to ensure environmental quality. As the city grows, informal environmental planning may alleviate some urban environmental problems, but not all. Planning decisions may, in themselves, introduce new environmental problems — zoning residential land will bring about the need for services (roads, highways, electric-

ty) to cross less suitable ground, such as groundwater recharge wadis or environmentally sensitive green space and countryside.

It is possible, however, that with careful planning carried out by interdisciplinary teams, most of the impact on the environment, in the short, medium and long-terms, can be addressed in a detailed manner, producing plans that can be modified with time.

That may already be happening in Aqaba, where new plans are complementing old zoning plans and environmental protection is highly considered in all new development. But planning in other cities — Wadi Musa (Petra) and Madaba in particular — has fallen to levels that should be viewed with alarm by those concerned with environmental well-being and sound tourism development.

The interrelationship among economic develop-

ment, environmental sustainability and human resources is much more complicated than can be imagined. The idea of considering environmental protection factors (some of which are non-quantifiable) explicitly in economic development planning has proven to be difficult for both developed and developing countries.

Relationships between human and environmental factors, as they change through time, make the analysis of environmental problems difficult. For poor, less developed countries, the issue of environmental sustainability becomes how to reconcile responsibility for the environment with development goals and the elimination of poverty (which requires increasing use of energy and natural resources). Thus, the shift to a development mode which takes into account local and regional environmental problems pins socio-economic

needs against the short-term costs of mitigating adverse environmental impacts that are difficult to value.

In the longer run, it is doubtful that a non-sustainable economy can defend itself from rising poverty, due to international competitiveness in all areas of economic activity, including general business services and tourism in cities.

The best long-term investment Jordan can make now, to complement economic priority activities in cities such as infrastructure development, tourism management and job creation, is sound environmental planning.

The writer is president of and principal consultant at the Environmental Resources Management Consultants, Amman. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

'Fated to find Petra'

By Eileen Healy

PETRA... the very name sounded magical and for me, it was the beginning of everything magical, everything unexplained, everything unplanned, a phenomenal experience.

A year spent living with the bedouins, with shooting stars taking the place of neon lights, and in this land I began to slowly shed the skins that layer peoples' thinking. I slowly began to disregard conventional ways of thinking about how to live until it became impossible to contemplate returning to my former way of life.

I found Petra by accident, by the flimsiest chance or, perhaps I was, quite simply, fated to find Petra.

The years spent wandering in Asia, driven by a curiosity for strange lands that I had never been able to satisfy, found me going in ever-decreasing circles in Asia. I had begun to mark out territories: Hong Kong was the cross-roads, a place to work; Thailand a home from home. To go anywhere else, I would simply open a map of the region and spread it out like a fan. I would go anywhere that aroused my curiosity.

Overlanding through countries to arrive in time for an epic performance of the Ramayana Ballet in Borobudur or trekking in jungles in search for a rare breed of lizard found only on one river became a way of life in itself. An article in the National Geographic about Angkor Wat found me the next day on a plane to Phnom Penh and the following day on a boat which followed the course of the river which flows into the inland lake of Tonle Sap and the small town of Siem Reap. Armed soldiers stern and aft staring into the impenetrable green of the jungle for possible Khmer Rouge were a reminder to me that in some parts of the world life is cheap and that mine could end swiftly and



100 plus: Iraya Al Faqir, bedouin woman from Umm Saihun (photos, courtesy of Eileen Healy)

without drama.

And so it continued, for ten years: an odyssey of discovery fuelled by curiosity and a desire for adventure. Until one day, on the banks of the Kwai River, in Thailand, I was reminded by friends that I came from the land of the

Scots and that it might be a good idea to go back for a while.

My head was full of tribal chiefs, Scottish clans, the old ways, the plaid, the gathering of the clans and the mountains. I was already walking in the past to a Scotland romanticised

by ten years of distance: my sentimental journey home was fuelled by films like Braveheart and Rob Roy. I had forgotten that Sauchichall St. was one of the busiest streets in Europe.

I had been away for ten years and the memory

plays tricks on the romantic expectations of the Scottish expatriate. Common sense told me one thing clearly: I was a long way from home and it made sense to break the journey and return slowly, by degrees. I explored the possibilities for a stop-over. Colombo? I had been there and stayed for three months. Istanbul? Worth consideration but it didn't really capture my imagination. Where, where to go?

A chance encounter with another Scot, the mere mention of Petra, a city more than 2000 years old carved from the very mountains themselves, sent me rushing to the map of the world. "Where on earth is Petra?" I demanded of a bemused travel agent on Khao San Rd. He pointed to a very small place in the centre of the world and it conjured visions of deserts, mountains, wild tribesmen, women veiled, Arabian stallions, sheikhs on camels and shimmering heat hazes. I bought the ticket Bangkok-Amman-London-Amman-Bangkok, but all I could think about was Petra.

A two weeks stop-over en route home was the reality and the rest was for dream-time, but it did not stop me feeling excited: I would swim in desert sands in air so pure that it crackled with electricity. I would hunt with the falcon and fly with the eagle. But really, I did not know what to expect. I certainly never thought I would land in the place I now think of as home. I thought I was going somewhere en route home to Scotland.

And so began the love affair I have for this land. My father used to joke that his freedom-loving daughter would one day run off with the gypsies. Well, I chose a nobler race of people to run off with. I ran off with the bedouins, a strong people, a race of survivors, a people who have inherited the genes of their ancestral nomadic race, genes

which have given them special qualities and a fitness to live in the mountains and deserts they call their own. Survivors all, from the youngest barefoot member of the tribe who sits around the fire and could build one if need be to the oldest member who can shrewdly negotiate the sale of hand-woven rugs to the peoples of the world.

And where did I fit in the scheme of things? An outsider, who didn't speak Arabic and moved into the village. The only woman to live alone without family or tribe, who knew nothing about donkeys but found herself with three; one to carry water, "my car", and two pets, two baby donkeys which I am attempting to rear.

And I would wonder: Who are they anyway, the bedouins of Petra?

I had arrived to Petra on a two-week stopover, unprepared, with no guidebook to even give me the most meagre information about the place I had come to or the people who inhabit the area. My meeting with a bedouin man, on my way to Al Deir, who showed me a sketch of a Nabataean coin depicting the head of Aretas IV, the king of Petra, and Shaqilah, his queen, led me inexorably on the road to writing my play, "Dream".

I came to see the families of Petra, who struggle to carry water to their homes, who wash their clothes by drawing water from the deep cisterns. My personal quest for water led me to the discovery that many such places exist in Petra. I looked at the bedouins who live by the clock in the sky: the sun, the moon and the stars. They wake with the sunrise, cook when the setting rays of the sun foretell the approach of night and darkness and illuminate their caves with the most primeval force known to man, fire.

Fire: the centre piece of bedouin life; fire to light the way, fire to make tea

on, fire to cook by, fire to tell stories around and, across the fire, time to fall in love with each other.

I did not speak Arabic, but no one seemed to mind. I would sit quietly, warmed by the fire and by the gentle hospitality of a people who required nothing of me and demanded nothing of me. I was charmed by the simplicity of the lifestyle and by the rituals of family life. An old lady praying to her God, dimly seen in the corner of a cave illuminated only by the flickering light of a hurricane lamp. A young mother breast feeding her child, her eyes glowing from the firelight, cheeks ruddy with health, a face browned by the sun in summer and beaten brown by the wind in winter. Her child plump and healthy and contented. The old woman pouring water into the cupped

hands of her husband so that he could wash before eating the bread she had made on the fire.

Not only had I run away with the bedouins, I meant to stay for ever, I decided. As I grew to know the people better, I began to identify with them so strongly that they became to me my own people.

That ticket I bought in Bangkok reads Bangkok-Amman-London-Amman-Bangkok, but it does not begin to tell the story of how I discovered Petra and stayed and of how I made my home with the bedouins.

The writer, a playwright and poet, has settled in Jordan and is living in the bedouin village of Umm Saihun. She contributed the article above to the Jordan Times.



Eileen Healy in her adopted village

Crown Prince in Hungary

(Continued from page 1)

During the meeting of the informal advisory group to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's position regarding Palestinian refugees and the right to return and be compensated. The Crown Prince also urged donor countries to honour their commitment to Palestinian refugees by contributing to the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), until the issue is settled.

Prince Hassan told the Geneva meeting that any new world order should be based on humanitarian considerations that place peoples' welfare at the top of the list of its priorities.

He told the conferees that Islam is a religion of tolerance and a message of peace and that those who thought a so-called "clash of civilisations" was inevitable were mistaken. Civilisations, per se, do not clash, he said, they rather fuse in a one world civilisation whose various elements borrow from and complement each other.

Jordan, he said, will continue to play the role of a peacemaker and Jordanian centrism will be deployed to campaign for Arab rights and the rights of all people to be respected and realised.

The Crown Prince's visit here is the last leg in a five-nation tour which took him to the U.S., Turkey, the U.K., Switzerland in addition to Hungary.

Israeli soldier killed, two villagers wounded in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

strafe the area, apparently wounding two villagers. One of those hurt was a 7-year-old Lebanese boy, they said. They spoke on condition their names not be used.

Later, Israeli war planes attacked suspected hideouts of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah in the area, they said.

Witnesses said two Israeli jets fired at least seven rockets at positions at Mlita and Ein Bswar Heights. Columns of black smoke could be seen rising from the stricken area.

It was not clear if any Hizbollah positions were hit, and there were no

immediate reports of casualties.

There was no immediate comment from Israel on reports that an Israeli soldier was killed.

But the Israeli army in Jerusalem confirmed the helicopter and jet raids and said the targets "were used as shooting posts by terrorists." The army said all aircraft returned safely to base.

Clashes occur often in the security zone, established by Israel 1985 to try to prevent against cross-border guerrilla attacks.

The Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, or the Party of God, has led the fight to drive the Israelis out of Lebanon.

A seven-year-old boy who sustained an eye injury cries as he is helped by a nurse in a hospital in Nabatiyeh town in south Lebanon Sunday. The boy was caught in the shelling between Israeli forces and Hizbollah guerrillas in the Iqlim Al Tufah area (Reuters photo)



Palestinians want \$1.1b to build infrastructure

JERICHO, West Bank (AFP) — The Palestinian Ministry of Local Government has drafted a five-year, \$1.1 billion plan to build roads, sewers, water networks and other infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The plan includes 2,697 infrastructure projects and is vital and should be carried out, said Saeb Erakat, minister of local government in the Palestinian National Authority.

Mr. Erakat said he would present his plan to the authority council for approval and financing, and would also seek financial help from donor countries.

The plan shows that areas classified as lightly populated or rural areas are without electricity.

About 250 villages and towns lack any kind of health centres while most of the rural areas have no sewer systems, Mr. Erakat said.

Palestinians say that most of their scheduled infrastructure projects have been put on hold due to a delay in international aid and frequent closures imposed by Israel on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Donor countries have pledged billions of dollars in aid and loans to the Palestinians after the signing of the Oslo peace accord with Israel in 1993, which set up the self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Privatised telecoms best for developing countries, World Bank expert says

TORONTO (AFP) — Streamlined, privatised telecommunications firms could help many developing countries follow East Asia, South Korea in particular, in dramatically reversing their fortunes, a World Bank expert has suggested.

The bank's chief economist, Joseph Stiglitz, told the Global Knowledge 97 Conference here: "Today, we stand on the threshold of a new era. The East Asia miracle has shown that the gap can be closed."

"Korea, for example, which only a few decades ago was a desperately poor country, today has a per capita income of nearly \$10,000, has moved from being a borrowing to an active donor country, and is a full member of the ... club of advanced industrial countries."

One of the key ingredients to the "East Asian miracle," according to Mr. Stiglitz, was "closing the knowledge gap with the most developed countries, illustrating that economic growth is as much a result of an increase in knowledge as an increase in capital and other resources."

And one of the best ways to increase knowledge flow, he said, was to improve telecommunications, which no longer needed long land lines — thanks to satellite links — and the massive investments of the past.

Mr. Stiglitz said that privatisation of telecommunications conglomerates in developed countries had opened up competition and driven down prices for developing countries seeking the knowhow of the telecommunications giants.

Nevertheless, Mr. Stiglitz warned, "rapidly accelerating technology and globalisation form a double-edged sword."

"Many countries will use new technologies, and the access to knowledge these technologies make possible, to leapfrog the development process and compete in the global economy," he said.

"Others that do not take advantage of the possibilities made available by trade, investment, and information will fall further behind," he added.

And, because of the fast pace of technological change, the gap between the two groups will grow even more rapidly.

Mr. Stiglitz said communications had helped increase the knowledge of farmers and cottage industries in remote developed areas so much that they now had a great awareness of the true value and market needs of their products.

"Farmers in Sri Lanka have been using the marketing information that modern communication provides to enhance their bargaining power; the prices they have received have gone up by 50 per cent or more," he said.

"Textile plants in Indonesia can adjust the dyes they use rapidly in response to the latest fashion changes in Europe and America. Computer programmers in India can write programmes for Silicon Valley firms; and data entry can be located anywhere in the world," he indicated.

But all this needed efficient telecommunications at affordable prices.

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7540	0.6933	1.4675	113.05	1.3733	1708.00	1.3745
DE Mark	0.5701	1.0000	0.5379	0.8366	64.45	0.7825	93.22	1.1255
GB Sterling	1.4385	2.5950	1.0000	2.4744	191.76	2.3147	2878.83	3.3280
CH Franc	0.6814	1.1944	0.4038	1.0000	77.02	0.8352	1163.09	1.3455
JP Yen	0.0088	1.5902	0.5240	1.2970	1.0000	1.2137	16.10	174.60
CA Dollar	0.7282	1.2768	0.4316	1.0682	1.21	1.0000	1243.27	1.4373
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0263	0.3470	0.8859	1612.85	0.8036	1.0000	11.55
NL Guilder	0.5065	0.8881	0.3002	0.7432	57.22	0.6963	864.81	2.9929
FR Franc	0.1682	0.2967	0.1003	0.2424	19.11	0.2323	33.40	33.4000

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUN	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6400	0.3023	3.6726	1535.50	3.3860
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	1.0000	5.2972	0.5325	5.1412	0.4270	5.1873	2168.79	4.7825
GB Sterling	0.2668	0.1888	0.1005	0.97	0.8006	0.58	408.42	0.9028	0.9028
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8780	9.8480	1.0000	8.66	0.8019	8.74	4072.94	8.8014
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0303	1.0303	1.0000	1.01	421.84	0.9302	0.9302
Kuwait Dinar	3.3080	2.3420	12.4082	1.2471	12.04	1.215	5078.39	0.9302	0.9302
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	1.0212	0.9911	0.8823	416.10	0.9220	0.9220
Lebanese/1000	0.855	0.6011	2.4425	0.2455	2.3708	0.1969	2.3918	1.0000	2.2051
Egyptian	0.2553	0.2091	1.1075	0.1113	1.0789	0.0893	1.0846	453.48	1.0000

Energy

Oil	Last	YTD
Brent	18.81	19.26
WT. Texa	18.44	20.37
Bonny	18.61	18.26
Dubai	16.90	17.30
UL Gas	142.00	143.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.4679	0.1582	0.39185	30.1705
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.47787	0.16155	0.39888	30.809
KW Dinar	3.3080	5.80383	1.96271	4.85673	374.251
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.85549	1.57381	3.8956	300.12
CY Pound	1.9292	3.3838	1.1439	2.8311	218.095

Metal Prices

Metal	Last	Offer
Gold (oz's)	324.5	325
Silver (oz's)	4.54	4.56
Platinum (oz's)	419	422
AL (3 Months)	1804	1808
CU (3 Months)	2403	2408
Zinc (3 Months)	1467	1471
Lead (3 Months)	661	665
NI (3 Months)	8960	8990

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Period	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
1 Month	5.56	5.65	5.75	5.84	5.96
3 Months	5.56	5.65	5.75	5.84	5.96
6 Months	5.56	5.65	5.75	5.84	5.96
9 Months	5.56	5.65	5.75	5.84	5.96
1 Year	5.56	5.65	5.75	5.84	5.96

Main Equity Indices

Index	Value	Chng	High	Low	Pt Cts
New York	DOJ JONES	7895.81	100.43	1.29	7896.26
New York	S&P 500	916.92	12.89	1.43	917.82
London	FT-SE 100	4612.8	-18.9	-0.39	4612.4
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	19968	-153.41	-0.76	20122.8
Paris	CAC 40	2934.48	-2.5	-0.08	2936.98
Frankfurt	DAX	3942.53	55.14	1.42	3945.68

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/bs)	166.83	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1585	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	325.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	146.5	Spot
Soy (\$/bs)	22.15	Spot
Tea (\$/kg)	128	Spot
Barley (\$/bs)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	480	Spot

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1934	1.1994
DE Mark	0.4031	0.4051
CH Franc	0.4816	0.4842
FR Franc	0.1196	0.1202
JP Yen	0.8253	0.8284
NL Guilder	0.3581	0.3599
IT Lira	0.4139	0.416

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.



United Nations Development Programme

Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People
Sustainable Human Development

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF PROJECT MANAGER

Tourism Development in the West Bank and Gaza
PAL/96/005

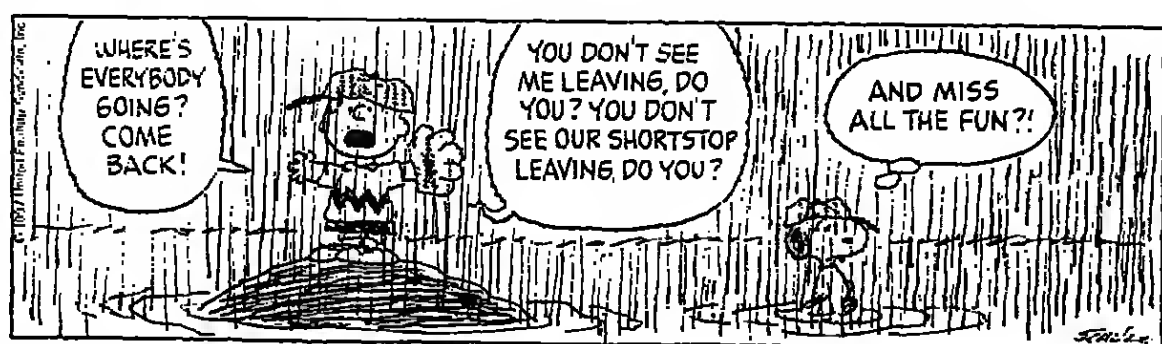
In the framework of its support programme for the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the UNDP/PAPP is launching phase II of its technical assistance project to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA). The incumbent will:

1. Supervise, manage and monitor the activities and administration of the project, and ensure proper implementation of all its components, namely: Tourism Planning and Development, Tourism Marketing, Institutional and Human Capacity Building, Tourism Awareness.
2. Coordinate the relationship between the MOTA, the UNDP/PAPP and other involved institutions.
3. Coordinate, supervise and assist the activities of short term consultants.
4. Review the activities of those public and private sector organizations involved either directly or indirectly with tourism, and recommend measures to improve the overall levels of coordination, cooperation in the sector.

The Project Manager should have a degree in Science or Arts in the fields of Tourism Development and Management, and 6 to 10 years of work experience in a related field. Work experience with local Palestinian institutions and understanding of the institutional set-up of the Palestinian Authority would be a strong advantage. The Project Manager should have good and proven management skills. Proficiency in using computer for word-processing, and fluency in Arabic and English are required. Interested candidates should send their CV to the following address:

UNDP/PAPP, 4A, Ya'Kobi St., P.O. Box: 51359, Jerusalem.
Fax: 972 2 6280089
Reference: Project Manager PAL/96/005
Deadline for submission: 10 July 1997

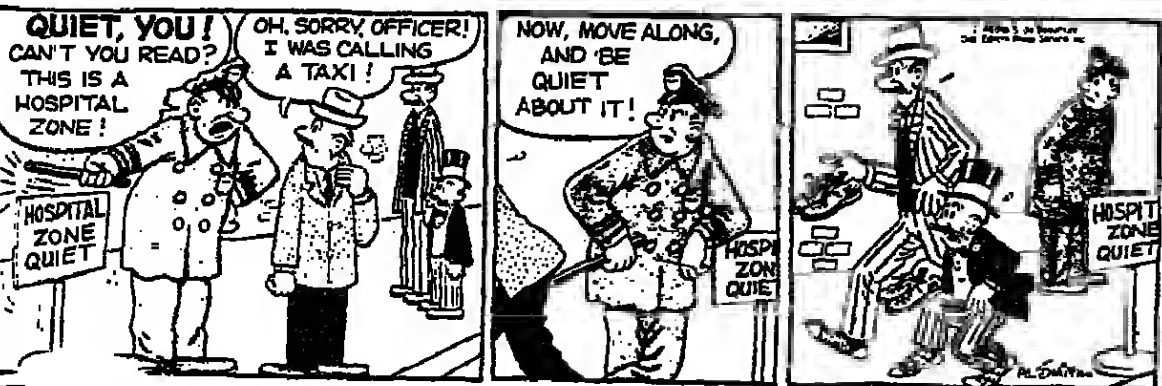
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



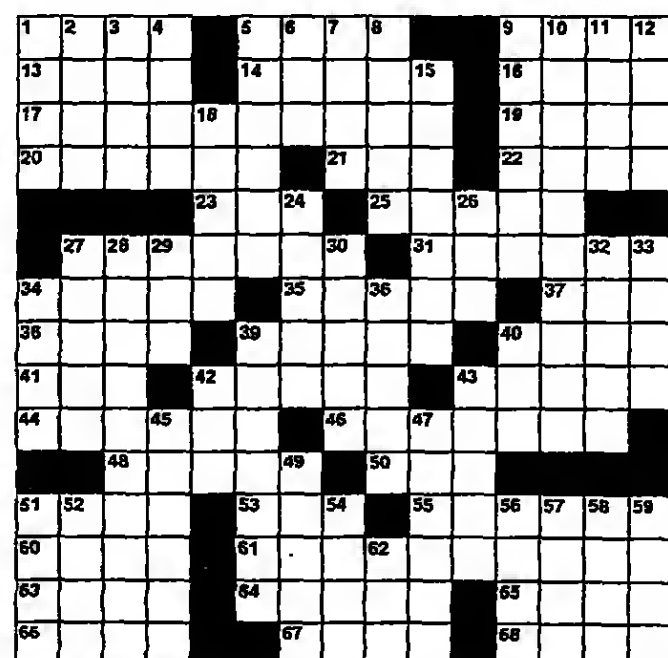
THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Unites
- 5 18-wheeler
- 9 Printing term
- 13 "I smell..."
- 14 Minimal
- 16 Scorch
- 17 Cinquillo
- 19 "Laugh-in" star, Johnson
- 20 Appeared
- 21 A Gershwin brother
- 22 Relax
- 23 Farmer's medico
- 25 First name in cosmetics
- 27 Proposed
- 31 "To Kill a Mockingbird" author
- 34 Baker's need
- 35 Amassed
- 37 Laders' union
- 38 Syptic
- 39 Splits
- 40 Tax
- 41 Film bigwig: abbr.
- 42 Fortification
- 43 Bad habits
- 44 Beer mug
- 46 Stars and —
- 48 Nary a time
- 50 Unguent
- 51 Courty Arthur?
- 53 Negative
- 55 Proltruding edge
- 60 Droplet
- 61 Twins
- 63 Sea eagle
- 64 Actor George
- 65 — instant
- 66 "Shane" star
- 67 Traditions
- 68 — chance

DOWN

- 1 Flight crew, at times
- 2 PA city
- 3 Letterman, familiarly
- 4 Stalk
- 5 Baseball pitch
- 6 Poetic time of day
- 7 Wise men
- 8 French river
- 9 Frightening one
- 10 Kind of suit
- 11 Nourishment
- 12 Waste allowance
- 15 Breaks up
- 18 Frenzy
- 24 Warm
- 26 Little guy
- 27 Hardy to Laurel
- 28 Necktie
- 29 Fee-law
- 30 Aria deliverers
- 32 Pixies
- 33 Beams
- 34 Crazes
- 36 Slowly, in music
- 39 Gives in
- 40 Back talk
- 42 Race a motor
- 43 Country house
- 45 Signed over
- 47 Shuffle cards
- 49 Spur wheel
- 51 Son of Eve
- 52 Antitoxins
- 54 Fast food order
- 56 Related
- 57 Boy: Sp.
- 58 Little biter
- 59 Writer Farber
- 62 Scull



by Roger Coburn

Puzzle solved:



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HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR MONDAY JULY 7, 1997

By Thomas S. Piers
Astrologer, Carroll-Ross Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Keep your eyes open for an investment opportunity today which could prove to be quite lucrative. Stay at home with your loved ones later this evening and relax for the days ahead could be quite hectic.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) If you need assistance today from a person in a powerful position, offer to give this individual "a piece of the action," and you will succeed. Later this evening will be good for meeting with knowledgeable people.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you believe a game chat with your mate today would clear the air of any tension and improve your home situation, don't hesitate to do this. Later this evening will be a good time for you and close friends to get together.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This evening is the best time to make changes in your social life, so proceed with full force. It is a good idea that you check out every angle of any decisions which you make today so that there aren't any surprises.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Attend an important public event today with your loved ones, and you can all benefit from the experience. This may not be the best time later this evening to take any risks where finances are concerned.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A short trip with a few good friends can help you to improve your business interests today, however, be sure to drive very carefully while on the highway. Later this evening you can go out on the town with your mate for fun activities.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Finances and real estate are important to you today, however, seek out the advice of an expert before making any definite decisions. Tonight will be good for you to meet with fellow associates on a new project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You should be wise today to keep your mind on the career activities ahead of you. Flying off on a silly departure would ruin your schedule, so think before you proceed thereby you can eliminate any difficulties.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Pay particularly close attention to health matters today, as you may be prone to an illness which won't be beneficial. Get plenty of rest at home later this evening so you will be prepared to handle the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You will have an excellent idea for recreational activities with close friends today, so follow through with it. Careful driving while on the highway is important today and later this evening, so be prepared.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Let your loved ones know what you're trying to accomplish today, and you can get much assistance from them. Take your loved ones out for dinner and entertainment, however, don't spend much money in the process.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) An out-of-town friend should be contacted for some worthwhile reason which could be quite beneficial. Study your newspaper for a valuable opportunity, however, you should not proceed without discussing it with a knowledgeable.

Birthstone of July: Pearl
— Ruby — Tiger's Eye

Holy Land Insurance Company

JD412,000 net

The Holy Land Insurance Company is a Jordanian company with a capital of JD412,000. The company is licensed to operate in Jordan and is a member of the Jordanian Insurance Association.

The company has a long history of providing insurance services to its policyholders. It has a strong financial base and is committed to providing excellent service to its customers.

The company's services include life insurance, health insurance, and property insurance. It has a wide range of policies to meet the needs of its policyholders.

The company is a member of the Jordanian Insurance Association and is regulated by the Jordanian Insurance Law. It is a reliable and trustworthy company.

The company's services are available to all Jordanians. It has a large network of agents and brokers throughout the country.

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Holy Land Insurance Company posts JD412,000 net profit

THE HOLY Land Insurance Company generated a JD312,000 profit last year but with the company's additional income of JD200,000 from rents and returns on its investments, the company posted a JD412,000 net profit after taking the necessary allocations and reserves as deemed fit by the board of directors. By adding JD212,918 of retained earnings, the balance of net profit reached JD627,825, an amount which the general assembly opted to retain in order to increase the company's capital to JD2 million in accordance with the new law.

Overall premiums collected in 1996 amounted to JD1.91 million, a 6.3 per cent drop from the JD2.04 million collected in 1995. Overall paid claims amounted to JD1.35 million, a 14.6 per cent decline from the total of JD1.58 million paid claims in 1995. Technical reserves for 1996 were JD751,936 compared to JD799,640 at the end of the preceding year.

Further details in the annual report showed the following results from insurance operations: — A JD135,000 profit posted by the vehicles department compared to JD104,000 in 1995. Premiums collected by this department totalled JD1.3 million (JD1.4 million in 1995) as paid claims were JD1.95 million and end-of-period reserves for outstanding claims were JD526,000.

Premiums earned by the fire department and the general accidents department were JD248,000 and JD130,000 respectively (JD233,000 and JD183,000 in 1995).

The marine department collected JD138,000 in premiums (JD178,000 in 1995) but paid claims were JD160,000 (JD207,000 in 1995).

The company's books showed investments in shares and stocks totalling JD396,137, 14.3 per cent higher than the JD339,414 worth of investments at the end of 1995. The company still owns lands worth JD194,332 and its own building which has a total cost of JD307,019 (Al Aswaq + Al Dustour).

Non-Jordanian share purchases increase 12-fold during six months

NON-JORDANIAN share purchases on the local stock exchange increased by more than 12 times to JD29.2 million (\$41.7 million) this year, an official said Saturday.

The boom was caused by recent steps to liberalise the economy, Wahib Al Sbair, director general of the Amman Financial Market, said.

He added that non-Jordanian investors bought shares worth JD39.5 million (\$56.4 million) between January and June this year and sold JD10.3 million (\$14.7 million) in the same period. Mr. Al Sbair said 43 per cent of this year's share purchases was by Arab businessmen, while the rest was by foreigners, including Asian, American and British firms.

Jordan has amended several financial laws to encourage foreign capital. The stock exchange recently said it plans to abolish non-Jordanian equity ownership ceiling of 50 per cent in some sectors of the economy.

Aridah proposes applying prices of Ministry of Tourism
Tourist transport companies sinking deeper into loss

By Samir Ghawi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

of 70 tourist buses entered the market.

Mr. Aridah indicated that there are 240 tourism buses operating in the Kingdom, but that the operational rate does not exceed 50 per cent for the three companies.

The Alfa chief explained that the cost of operating a tourist bus is 622 fils per kilometre. This amount is calculated on the basis that for every 60,000 kilometres, the total cost per bus is around JD39,000 which include:

- JD1,460 for maintenance
- JD2,580 for fuel
- JD900 for tyres
- JD 3,000 for salaries and other related benefits
- JD24,000 depreciation
- JD3,120 insurance
- JD2,300 administrative expenses.

Giving an example, he said that a journey to Petra, a 500-kilometre trip, costs JD311, but due to compe-

dition and abundance of buses, companies charge as low as JD150 which means a JD161 loss per journey.

"The only beneficiary from these extremely low prices is the foreign tourist who relies on the bus service of his/her tour," Mr. Aridah stressed noting the price is the lowest in the Arab World.

Mr. Aridah expects losses to reach JD2.5 million for the tourism transport sector unless a quick agreement is reached between the companies to charge a rate worked out by the Ministry of Transport to ensure fairness and a minimum level of profitability.

He stressed that such an understanding will not be forming a pricing cartel or imposing the will of the concerned parties on the tourism offices but should be seen as only a mechanism to save the sector from collapsing in the medium term.

Noting that a tourist bus costs between JD150,000 and JD200,000 without customs and that the operational life of the vehicle is between five and six years, Mr. Aridah highlighted the importance of reaching a quick solution especially as high interest on bank credits was exacerbating the problem.

Saudi power firm signs \$500m bank loan

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia (R) — A Saudi Arabian electricity firm has signed a \$500 million syndicated loan with local and international banks to partly finance a major \$1.1 billion power project in the kingdom's eastern province.

Bankers at the signing ceremony said the 10-year loan that the Saudi Consolidated Electric Company-East (SCECO-East) signed with 25 banks would be at 90 basis points over LIBOR.

"This \$500 million term loan facility represents the first international borrowing by a Saudi public utility company and we are confident it will not be the last," said Gulf International Bank (GIB) General Manager Abdullah Al Quwais.

The Saudi government has large majority stakes in the country's four major electricity companies. The sector is heavily subsidised and in recent years has run into financial difficulties after the government put a squeeze on spending amid heavy Gulf war debt and low oil prices until early 1996.

Bankers have said the loan would not carry any government guarantee. Saudi Arabia — which in 1995 repaid its one and only sovereign loan, which was worth \$4.5 billion — has considered

direct borrowing on the international market as being likely to expose the state to unwelcome publicity.

The kingdom's electricity utilities have embarked on expansion projects as part of an ambitious programme to raise the kingdom's power capacity to 60,000 megawatts over 25 years from the current 19,000 megawatts.

The SCECO-East loan will be used to partly finance the building of the Ghazlan II power plant and associated projects. SCECO-East will finance the rest from its internal resources, SCECO officials said.

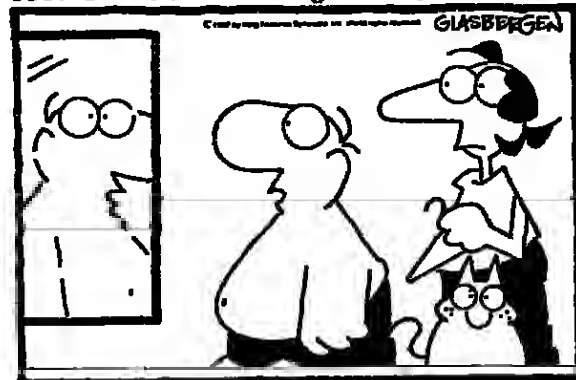
"The massive project would meet increasing demand of the oil and basic industries sectors' need and the growth in economic, trade and population in the eastern province," one said.

SCECO-East last month signed four contracts worth 1.159 billion riyals (\$309 million) to integrate the Ghazlan II plant into its main power system to keep pace with surging domestic demand.

JORDAN TIMES

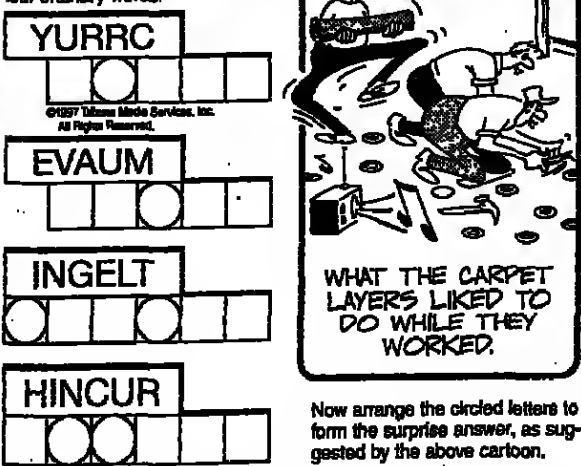
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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I think I'm a victim of mirror abuse."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Heret Arnold and Mike Arlton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GOOSE HANDY RABBIT WINNOW
Answer: A coffee shop owner always knows this — WHAT'S BREWING

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Russians say Kournikova just the first of many

MOSCOW (R) — Down by the rubbish dump and old storehouses round the back of Moscow's sprawling Sokolniki Park may seem an unlikely nursery for the world's most glamorous teenage tennis prodigy, Wimbledon semi-finalist Anna Kournikova.

But at the Spartak Olympic Sports School they were claiming the hard-hitting, unseeded 16-year-old for their own and are aggrieved at media reports that she owes her success to coaching at the Nick Bollettieri Academy in Florida over the last five years.

And, what is more, there are dozens more Russian youngsters where she came from, getting ready to break into the big time.

The pony-tailed Kournikova, dubbed "Lolita" for her looks by Britain's tabloid press during Wimbledon, has attended the Spartak school, one of the former Soviet Union's full-time hotbeds for young sporting talent, since the age of six.

Though of its 18 mostly clay courts only one is indoors — no mean handicap in a city where daytime temperatures are below freezing for four months of the year — Kournikova still trains here regularly and her family lives nearby, staff said.

"All the credit's going to that Bollettieri," said director Natalya Kocheikova. "But she spends most of her time here."

Spartak's Larisa Preobrazhenskaya is still Kournikova's coach, travelling with her to tournaments. "We'll produce a lot more Kournikovs in future," said Spartak coach Rosa Mukhamedzhanova as she watched one promising 10-year-old girl thump vicious backhands across the net.

"We've dozens of very strong under-12s and under-



Anna Kournikova

14s. You're going to see a lot more Russians in international tournaments."

Staff at the school know Kournikova well. "The kid burned with a huge desire to

play. You just couldn't get her off the court," said Marina Tyuryakova, who coached her for two years.

"We're all very proud that such a great athlete grew up

on these very courts," Mukhamedzhanova said.

The school, part of the same foundation that runs Russian soccer champions Spartak Moscow, still has a reputation as one of the best in the country, rivalled by the Sochi centre on the Black Sea which produced world number four Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

With wear and tear all too evident in its shabby buildings and ageing clay courts, the school is struggling like the rest of Russian sports from the cut in funding caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union and its policy of sport as geopolitics.

But, as the slogan says on the sportswear poster at the school showing Kournikova variously on the court and looking coy in a clinging evening dress: "Looks can be deceptive."

Tennis, with its bourgeois overtones, was never a favourite of the Soviet sporting commissars, who preferred team games and traditional disciplines like athletics and gymnastics.

But the thaw of glasnost that set in a decade ago, allowing young players to travel and hone their skills in international competition spawned a new generation led by Kafelnikov, who won the French Open last year, and Kournikova.

Individual sponsors have come in to back promising players and the Spartak school is seeing an influx of cash from wealthy "new Russians" keen to emulate president Boris Yeltsin and take up a sport that is all the more glamorous in Russia for its novelty.

Her 6-3 6-2 semifinal defeat on Thursday by Swiss top seed Martina Hingis did little to dispel the conviction that Kournikova is set not only on a path of personal glory but to blaze a trail for a generation of Russians coming on behind her.

Cram, Ibbotson and Brasher admit taking payments

LONDON (R) — Former world record holders Sieve Cram and Derek Ibbotson and Olympic champion Chris Brasher have admitted taking money to race when they were amateur athletes.

"It was all back-door money, brown envelopes, that sort of thing," said Brasher, who was Olympic steeplechase champion in 1956.

The three Britons make their admissions in a radio programme due to go out on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on Wednesday.

"So-called amateur athletes received cash payments and incentives for competing in races as long ago as the 1950s," the BBC said in a press release about the track marks programme on Sunday.

Cram, who will present Wednesday's programme, said: "By the time I entered the sport in the late 1970s payments were common. My first brown envelope came as a result of making the Olympic final in 1980."

Brasher, who acted as a pacemaker in helping Roger Bannister break the four-minute barrier for the mile in 1954, said: "The highest amount I heard anybody get for one race was 150 pounds (now \$253)."

Ibbotson, who set a world mile record in 1957, admits to having made around 600 pounds a year from such payments at the time, nearly doubling the salary he earned as an electrical engineer.

"If somebody said to me I want you to run at my meeting and I can offer you 50 pounds I would say fine because that was better than nothing," he says.

Can Hingis capture Grand Slam?

WIMBLEDON (AP) — History suggests the biggest threat to Martina Hingis' longevity may be horses.

At age 16, Hingis became the youngest Wimbledon champion of this century Saturday by beating 28-year-old Jana Novotna 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

If not for a spill from a horse before the French Open, Hingis might be three-fourths of the way to a Grand Slam this year. She became the youngest Grand Slam champion when she won the Australian Open in January.

Only Lottie Dod was a younger Wimbledon Champion, winning in 1887 at age 15. The late Maureen Connolly won in 1952 at 17.

"It might be that I'm maybe too young to win this title," Hingis said.

The smiley Swiss teen-ager's trophy collection will likely get much larger, although she continues to enjoy horseback riding and may want to consider Connolly's tragic career.

At 18, Connolly became the first woman to win the Grand Slam in a single year, sweeping the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Championships in 1953.

A year later, with nine Grand Slam titles at age 19, the young American was thrown from a horse. She broke her leg and never played again.

The youngest Wimbledon champion is Martina Hingis, 16, who is the daughter of a Swiss horse breeder. There's Sieff Graf and Helen Wills, who went on to dominate the sport for years. There's also Monica Seles and Andrea Jaeger, whose careers were curtailed by injuries.

The most recent case of tennis burnout, Jennifer Capriati, never reached Hingis' heights. Capriati made the semi-



Martina Hingis

finals of the French Open in 1990 at 14, but drug and personal problems derailed her career three years later.

Hingis shows no symptoms of suffering for her success. She wears a perpetual grin and says she's close to her mother and coach, Melanie Molitor.

"I think Martina will be very good," Novotna said. "I'm comparing her to the other players we saw burn out really quickly. I think she is very normal, thanks to her mother. I think that when she is not on the court, she is acting like a normal teen-age kid, but on the other hand she knows very well what she's doing."

Hingis' game continues to blossom. The weakest aspect is her serve, which will likely improve as she gets stronger. She is reluctant to charge the net, but she's an excellent doubles player and can develop her volleys as a weapon.

At the baseline, Hingis has a remarkable array of strokes, from slices and drop shots to the sort of blistering passing shots that repeatedly whizzed past Novotna.

She has the advantage that she has so much variety in her game," Novotna said. "Even with her not having the best serve, she can always come in and pick up the volleys, because she has very good hands."

On Saturday, she held a Wimbledon trophy.

Gonzalez, making up for lost time, leads Rangers to win

ARLINGTON (R) — Juan Gonzalez, merrily making up for lost time, homered twice and drove in six runs to hoist the Texas Rangers to an 8-1 victory over the Oakland Athletics Saturday for their fourth straight win.

Bobby Witt (10-4) and Xavier Hernandez combined on a three-hitter as the second place Rangers climbed within five games of the Seattle Mariners in the AL West.

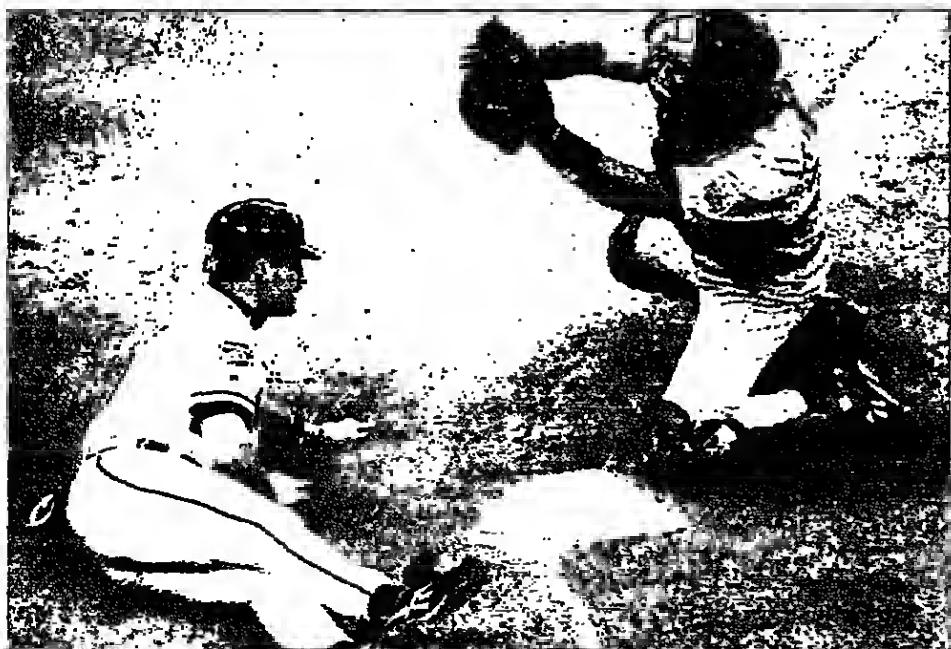
Gonzalez, last season's League MVP, had a pair of two-run homers, a sacrifice fly and a run-scoring groundout.

"I'm a bit surprised," said Gonzalez of his home run total.

In Anaheim, Gary Disarcina singled with one out in the ninth to score Orlando Palmeiro as the Anaheim Angels edged the Seattle Mariners 3-4 to snap a three-game losing streak. The Angels trailed 4-1 after five innings but rallied to tie the game on Tim Salmon's three-run blast in the eighth off reliever Scott Sanders.

In Detroit, Terry Matthews' wild pitch during an intentional walk in the bottom of the eighth inning allowed Travis Fryman to score the go-ahead run as the Detroit Tigers rallied for a 6-5 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

"If I knew what happened, then it wouldn't have had happened," Matthews said.



Minnesota Twins catcher Terry Steinbach holds up the ball for the home plate umpire Mike Reilly to see, after tagging out Milwaukee Brewers baserunner Matt Mieske (Reuters photo)

American League			
Chicago White Sox	11	Boston	8
Cleveland	8	Kansas City	4
NY Yankees	8	Toronto	0
Detroit	6	Baltimore	5
Milwaukee	2	Minnesota	1
Texas	8	Oakland	1
Anaheim	5	Seattle	4
National League			
Philadelphia	9	Chicago Cubs	7
NY Mets	5	Florida	3
Pittsburgh	4	St. Louis	3
Houston	2	Cincinnati	1
Atlanta	5	Montreal	3
Los Angeles	7	San Diego	3
San Francisco	2	Colorado	1

In Toronto, Andy Pettitte tossed a six-hitter for his first career shutout as the New York Yankees ended a week-long offensive drought with an 8-0 defeat of the Toronto Blue Jays.

Pettitte (9-5) walked two and struck out six in his 79th career start.

"It's special, it was a great feeling," Pettitte said. "Hopefully I won't have to wait as long for another one."

Toronto starter Pat Hentgen (8-6), who beat out Pettitte for Cy Young award honours last season, took the loss.

In Milwaukee, Cal Eldred allowed one run and three hits over seven innings as the Milwaukee Brewers ended a five-game losing streak with a 2-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

In Cleveland, Charles Nagy pitched seven innings for his first win in almost three weeks and Marquis Grissom's two-run double keyed a four-run second inning as the Indians handed the Kansas City Royals their seventh straight loss, 8-4.

Nagy (19-4) allowed all four runs and six hits. Manny Ramirez, Brian Giles and Jim Thome homered for the tribe.

In Chicago, Tony Pena drove in four runs to double his season RBI total as the Chicago White Sox spoiled the return of Steve Avery with an 11-8 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

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ELISA

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PLAZA

Jean Claude Van Danme ... in

MAXIMUM RISK

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD

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Tom Cruise...in
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Sports

8th Pan-Ar Draw for Mandatory tes

By Alan Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The draw for the 8th Pan-Arab mandatory tests in basketball and volleyball events will take place Monday at Beirut.

The draw will take place on the 12-27 event. The countries are taking part in the soccer event, 10 in men's basketball, 5 in women's event, 4 in men's volleyball and 5 in women's event.

The biggest participation in athletics with 18 countries and the lowest in basketball with only four countries and women's cycling with three.

As officials grapple with the technical aspects of the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in 1992, it was also announced that the Games will include random drug-testing for the first time in the event's history.

APF quoted head of the medical team Dr. Rida Khatem saying that 300 samples would be taken during the two-week long Games from 20 countries to be competing in 21 events.

Dr. Khatem said random samples will be taken from athletes in different sports regardless of their results in competitions. Few results will be sent to the French laboratories of the International Committee of Medical Association (ICM).

Random testing positive will have their results automatically stripped and will later be suspended according to international rules.

He said that no such tests had been done in Arab countries so far because of the high cost of about \$220 and the availability of such labs in the developing coun-

tries. The Games will be held in Amman from July 12 to 27.

At least in a number of sports, the order of the Games will be changed.

Some of the changes include the basketball and volleyball events being moved to the 12th and 13th days of the Games.

The Games will be held in Amman from July 12 to 27.

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8th Pan-Arab Games

Draw for team sports held today

Mandatory testing to be conducted for first time

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The draw for soccer, basketball and volleyball events at the 8th Pan-Arab Games will take place Monday as Beirut starts the countdown for the July 12-27 event.

Ten countries are taking part in the soccer event, 10 in men's basketball, 5 in the women's event, 9 in men's volleyball and 5 in the women's event.

The biggest participation comes in athletics with 18 countries and the lowest one is kick-boxing with only four countries and women's cycling with three.

As officials grapple with managing the technical aspect of the largest gathering of Arab youth since the event was last held in Syria in 1992, it was also announced that the Games will include random drug-testing for the first time in the event's history.

AFP quoted head of the medical team Dr. Rida Kathem saying that 300 samples would be taken during the two-week long Games in which 3000 athletes from 20 countries will be competing in 21 events.

Dr. Kathem said random samples will be taken daily from athletes in different sports regardless of their results in competitions.

Test results will be sent to the French laboratories of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Athletes testing positive will have their results automatically scrapped and will later be suspended according to international rules.

He said that no such tests had been done in Arab countries so far because of the high cost of about \$220 and the unavailability of such labs in the developing coun-

tries.

The Kingdom's delegation will meet Minister of Youth Qasem Abu Ein Monday as the teams put their finishing touches before leaving to Beirut.

However, as teams complete their preparations they are also under the added pressure of the funding problem and according to the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) only three out of 13 federations taking part have paid their participation fees.

Each federation is required to pay 40 per cent of expenses incurred by the Ministry of Youth — something most federations might not be able to do since it would cost them half of their allocated budget for the season especially in case of team sports.

Participation in the event is expected to cost around JD 92,000 and in order to cut down on cost, each team will arrive in Beirut one day prior to its event and leave following the end of their respective competitions.

The minimum criteria for participation as set by the JOC's technical committee includes attaining at least a halfway standing in addition to passing a mandatory medical test in order to rule out any possible injury.

Some tests showed that certain athletes had injuries that would bar them from successfully competing and therefore some athletes are expected to be possibly ruled out of competition during this week.

Compared to the preliminary list, the Kingdom's delegation was downsized to 182. Eighty-nine men and 32 women athletes will be competing in 14 of the 21 events at the Games. The delegation will also include 61 team managers, coaches and

officials.

The latest list cuts down the number of athletes and referees in some sports and excludes three games as Jordan had previously announced it would be competing in 17 events.

The preliminary list of the 257-member delegation had included 130 men and 37 women athletes, 64 officials and coaches, and 26 referees.

Twenty countries have confirmed participation in the event and only Somalia and the Comoros Islands will not be competing.

Twenty-one events have been set for the Games excluding handball, gymnastics, body-building, hockey, diving and water polo for technical and financial reasons.

Jordan dropped participation in cycling, tennis and volleyball, and the entry form now includes participation in athletics, basketball, karate, swimming, taekwondo, table tennis, boxing, equestrian, soccer, weightlifting, judo, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling, fencing and shooting. Other events at the Games include golf, yachting and kick-boxing.

Jordan's soccer and basketball teams will be representing the country in the July 12 opening ceremony.

The soccer team is now in Istanbul for a week-long training camp and is scheduled to meet Istanbulspor Tuesday before returning to Amman. They drew 2-2 with the youth team of Turkish champions Galatasaray in their first match.

The men's basketball team, runner-up in the last Pan-Arab Games, will be facing tough competition and will be represented by a young lineup in the absence of some of the top stars who played in the 1992 Games including Murad Barakat, Yousef

Zaghlool and Marwan Ma'touq.

Although unimpressive in friendly matches against Syria, the women's basketball team was given the go-ahead by the minister of youth and sports who prompted the JOC to include the team to maintain continuity for the women's game which had been non-existent from 1983-1995 when the team was regrouped and took part in the Asian Championship.

Basketball is scheduled to be the only team sport Jordan's women will take part in. Individual sports are athletics, swimming, taekwondo, equestrian and table tennis.

According to latest reports, the biggest contingent will be that of hosts Lebanon with 563, followed by Syria 359 and Egypt 343.

Jordan has received preliminary approval to host the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 1999 and the Jordanian sports officials announced their full support of the event noting the importance of taking part in the Games which have only been held seven times since 1953.

Jordan had finished 9th overall in the last Pan-Arab Games with 1 gold, 6 silver and 6 bronze medals.

Hosts Syria topped the medals table with 48 points, 31 silver, 37 bronze followed by Egypt and Algeria.

The event was due to be held last year but was postponed after the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon.

The Pan-Arab Games were held in Alexandria 1953, Beirut 1957, Casablanca 1961, Cairo 1965, Damascus 1976, Morocco 1985 and Damascus 1992.

Sampras blasts Pioline off court to reclaim crown

LONDON (AFP) — World No. 1 Pete Sampras blasted unseeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline off a sun-drenched centre-court to reclaim his Wimbledon singles crown here on Sunday.

The 25-year-old American, who also won the title in 1993, 1994 and 1995 scored a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 victory in 1hr 35mins of sheer perfection.

He hit 17 aces, conceded only 17 points on serve, and moved just two titles away from equalling Australian Roy Emerson's all-time record of twelve Grand Slam singles wins.

It was the 28-year-old Pioline's second appearance in a major tournament final. His first came at the 1993 United States Open where he was also beaten by Sampras in straight-sets.

Sampras, who was making his ninth consecutive appearance at the championships where he has lost only twice in 38 matches since reaching the 1992 semi-final, came out firing bullets right from the start to destroy the confidence of the Frenchman — a 100-1 title outsider two weeks ago.

Pioline kept Sampras at bay for two points right at the start of the match — by opening with a double-fault and then serving an ace.

But from that moment on he was under relentless pressure — lunging at shadows and trying desperately to cope with the sheer speed and power of his opponent's shots.

The French Davis Cup player, a 'top-ten' player just four years ago but now ranked 44th, had only one glimmer of hope when he held his one and only break point in the eighth game of



Pete Sampras of the U.S. kisses the Challenge Cup after defeating France's Cedric Pioline to win the men's singles final at the Wimbledon tennis championships July 6. Sampras won the match 6-4 6-2 6-4 (Reuters photo)

the third set after Sampras double-faulted for only the second time in the match.

But he wasn't allowed to exploit the chance.

Sampras, who was playing in his 33rd Grand Slam event, snuffed it out as fast as it had appeared with big serving and impeccable

volleying. Ironically Sampras' pre-Wimbledon form had not been encouraging.

For after a 17-match winning start to the season and a victory at the Australian Open, he won only four matches in as many tournaments after arriving in

Europe in April.

Pioline, who has two tour victories to his credit — at Copenhagen last year and at Prague earlier this season, was the first French player to contest a Wimbledon final since Yvon Petra beat Geoffrey Brown of Australia in 1946.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TAMMAM HIRSHI

WHERE'S THE 13TH TRICK?

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ Q 10 6 2
♥ A K 7
♦ 7 5 2
♣ Q 3WEST
♠ 8 4
♥ 9 8 3 2
♦ 3
♣ K J 5 6 5 2EAST
♠ K 7 3
♥ Void
♦ K J 8 6 4
♣ A 10 5 4SOUTH
♠ A 9 5
♥ Q J 10 6 4
♦ A Q 10
♣ 4 7The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
10 Pass 10 20
20 Pass 40 Pass
40 Pass 80 Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Three of spade

We are always suspicious when we are given a play problem and no bidding, especially when it is far from obvious how the contract was reached. All too often, it is a composed problem. Still, we liked this fascinating hand so much we invested an auction for it.

South does not need all that much for slam, since the diamond honors are very well placed. If South does move, North might

decide that there are few hands where South would bid on over four hearts missing the ace and king of trumps that would not offer play for slam.

West's lead was obviously a singleton. Declarer captured East's king with the ace, crossed to the king of trumps as East discarded a diamond, and ran the queen of spades successfully, followed by the jack. East again withheld the king.

Declarer drew three more rounds of hearts as East parted with two more diamonds and a club, then cashed the ace of spades to exhaust the defenders of that suit.

Declarer now reduced the hand to three cards by cashing two more trumps. West was down to nothing but clubs, dummy was left with a good spade and Q 3 of clubs, and East was in trouble. On the fifth trump East could shift a low club, but the last heart was too much.

If East came down to two diamonds and the ace of clubs, a club would endplay the defender and, on the forced diamond return, declarer would score both the queen and ten by simply covering any card East returned. So East elected to jettison the ace of clubs. Now a club lead could be won by West's king, but that defender would have to return a club to dummy's queen, and the high spade would be the falling trick.

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Flashpoint Orange march staged amid huge security

PORTADOWN (R) — Hundreds of Orange Order members protected by thousands of troops and police marched down Portadown's Catholic Garvaghy Road on Sunday jeered by residents whose campaign to ban the parade failed.

Police and British troops mounted one of the biggest security operations in the province has seen in 28 violent years and clashed with Catholic residents when they seized control of the Garvaghy Road shortly before dawn to stifle opposition.

The move ended days of guessing over whether the march would be banned, re-routed or permitted and was greeted with derision by local Catholics and Irish Nationalist leaders.

Leaders of the Orange Order refused to reroute their annual parade and marched silently down the Garvaghy Road in what they said was a peaceful celebration of their British birthright and Protestant faith which should have offended no-one.

Youths pelted army and police escorts with stones and bottles as the parade returned to the mainly Protestant town

of Portadown and there were signs that the decision to permit the parade would ignite Catholic anger elsewhere in the province.

Armed men hijacked a train at nearby Lurgan and torebed all six carriages before fleeing. Police said several cars were hijacked and set ablaze in Catholic West Belfast.

Six police officers were injured in Portadown, none seriously police said. Around a dozen civilians were also hurt.

Police Chief Ronnie Flanagan and Northern Ireland secretary, Mo Mowlam, said the last-minute decision to permit the parade was taken to minimise the threat of violence from extremists in the divided majority Protestant and minority Catholic community.

"The choice I was left with was a simple, stark choice in terms of balancing two evils, each evil bound to bring about serious violence," Chief Flanagan told a news conference.

"I'm talking about loss of life," he said. The parade, one of thousands the order holds every year in a "marching season" that climaxes next Sunday,

took about 15 minutes to file past women waving Nazi slogans and crowds who whistled, banged dustbins and yelled "No justice, no peace."

It stopped en route at a tiny church at Drumcree for a traditional service where the Reverend John Pickering blessed the march but said: "We can't go on in this country as we are. We need a true and lasting peace."

About 1,200 Orange faithful in traditional bowler hats and sashes then filed past Garvaghy Road's embittered residents accompanied by an accordion band which stayed silent as police directed in a gesture of respect.

"I am disgusted and the Nationalist community is seething with anger at the imposition of virtual martial law and the brutal fashion in which it was enforced by the RUC (police) and British army against the innocent people of the Garvaghy Road," Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin, political wing of the IRA, said.

Sinn Féin, which, like the Irish Republican Army seeks to end British rule of Northern Ireland, wanted the parade banned by Britain's new Labour government to prove

its commitment to equal rights for the divided society. A spokesman for Bertie Ahern's new Irish government expressed disappointment at the fact that Irish Nationalist objections had been ignored.

The two governments have been locked in a three-year effort to find a negotiated settlement to the Northern Ireland conflict and have differed previously on Protestant parades policy.

"When there is intransigence on both sides, two intransigent groups, neither of which would move, a decision had to be made for them," Ms. Mowlam told a Belfast news conference in her first public statement for 24 hours.

Foreign observers expressed disquiet at the security operation which took control of Garvaghy Road by dark.

"They just kept on beating people," Robert Cushing, a member of the House of Representatives in New Hampshire, told Reuters.

"There was no announcement of dispersal. There was no warning. They just descended upon unarmed people sitting on the street."

Egypt police arrest opposition leaders over land law violence

CAIRO (AP) — Police have arrested two opposition Labour Party members on grounds they tried to incite farmers over a new, controversial land reform law, police officials said Sunday.

The Labour Party, in a statement, said Mohamed Hashem and Zaki Sharawi were detained Saturday on grounds that they tried to incite the relatives of farmers jailed in protests against the law.

The law, which is to go into effect October 1, is part of a government drive to privatise the economy and eliminate "distortions" instituted by earlier Socialist governments. Enacted in 1992, it gave farmers five years to vacate farm land they rented or to begin

paying market rents set by landlords.

Farmers groups fear implementation of the law will force thousands of poor peasants off land they have farmed for years, and there have been increasing protests against the law.

Last week a 70-year-old man, a 14-year-old boy and a woman were killed in a clash between farmers and police.

Mr. Hashem and Mr. Sharawi were taken into custody in the province of Beni Suef, 110 kilometres south of Cairo, according to police officials. They spoke on customary condition their names not be used.

Mr. Hashem is a member of the Labour Party's Executive

Committee and representative of farmers in the party. Mr. Sharawi is party member.

Police said the two visited the families of 26 farmers who were jailed last month on the pretext of offering moral and financial support. In fact, the officials charged, the party activists encouraged the families to protest.

The 26 farmers were arrested after participating in a demonstration on June 26 in which a farm cooperative building in Beni Suef was torched.

The Labour Party statement denied that Mr. Hashem and Mr. Sharawi were inciting further action and said the men had been accompanied on their visits by a police officer.

Israel's army chief denies resigning report

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Army Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak has telephoned Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to deny media reports he plans to resign over policy disagreements with the premier, officials said Sunday.

"General Shahak telephoned the prime minister to deny this report" put out by Israel's second television station late Saturday, said a military spokesman.

The television said the 53-year-old Gen. Shahak wants to stand down in spring 1998 after celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of Israel.

Gen. Shahak made the decision after repeated disagreements with Mr. Netanyahu on policy issues, especially those related to the peace process, said the report.

The general was one of the chief negotiators of the autonomy accords with the Palestinians under the previous Labour government, and has on several occasions expressed concern over the three-month freeze in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The general was upset at not being consulted by Mr. Netanyahu before the premier ordered the opening of a new entrance to an archaeological tunnel close to Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem in September last year.

The move sparked violent clashes between Palestinians and the Israeli army which left more than 80 people dead.

Last month Gen. Shahak called Justice Minister Tsahi Hanegbi "a liar" after the minister questioned the military record of Ehud Barak, Gen. Shahak's predecessor who now heads the main opposition Labour Party.

Chiefs of staff are appointed for three years in Israel but systematically continue for an extra year. Gen. Shahak took up his post in 1995.



A nationalist resident of the Garvaghy Road in Portadown kicks out at RUC officers trying to remove her from the road, during a protest to block the route of a loyalist Orange Order march on Sunday. Last year's march resulted in widespread violence in the province, and discussions between Nationalist and Loyalist leaders with Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam failed to achieve an agreement again this year (Reuters photo)

Cosmetics heir mediates between Israel and Syria

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — American cosmetics heir, Ron Lauder, is among U.S. businessmen attempting to get Israeli-Syrian peace talks restarted, according to a newspaper report Sunday.

Mr. Lauder, a confidant of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, met in Washington last month with Syrian Ambassador Walid Moualem.

Mr. Netanyahu's Adviser David Bar-Ilan confirmed.

The Israeli newspaper Maariv, citing a story in the London-based Arabic weekly Al Wasat, said the meeting was intended to restart peace talks which have been frozen over a

year. Mr. Lauder spent two hours at Moualem's Washington, D.C. home on June 18 and briefed U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, it said.

No confirmation was immediately available from Mr. Lauder or the State Department.

Mr. Bar-Ilan said the meeting was "social" and Mr. Lauder was not negotiating for Israel. But he added that "anything that brings about the willingness on the part of Syria to return to negotiations is a salutary sign."

Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 war and annexed the area in 1981. Syria wants it back in

exchange for peace and claims it reached such a deal with Israel's previous Labour government. But Mr. Netanyahu, elected last year, opposes a full Golan pullout.

Last week, Maariv said several other Jewish-American businessmen had been shuttling between Israel and Syria and delivering messages, including Slim Fast owner Dan Abrams and James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank.

According to the report, Mr. Abrams and Mr. Lauder own an Israeli-registered company which wants to lay a water pipeline from Turkey to Israel through Syrian territory.

British nurses wait for Saudi verdict on power of attorney

RIYADH (AFP) — Two British nurses accused of killing an Australian colleague are waiting for a Saudi court to rule on a power of attorney from the victim's family that could decide if they are beheaded in case of conviction.

But defence lawyer Anwar Bakhrji warned Sunday that the trial, which has already been adjourned twice for the family to submit all the paperwork, could drag on for months because of the power of attorney.

The trial in the eastern Saudi city of Khobar resumes Monday, after the latest adjournment of two weeks.

Before any verdict on the killing is reached, the Islamic court must rule if Frank Gilford, the brother of victim Yvonne Gilford, is entitled to spare the nurses from being executed.

Under Islamic law, the victim's family has the right to grant mercy and accept a financial settlement of around \$25,000, saving the killers of their relatives from a death sentence for premeditated murder.

Mr. Gilford has so far refused to consider mercy

for the Britons, Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, if they are found guilty because of the brutality of the killing.

His sister was found dead on December 11 in a hospital dormitory of Dhahran, near Khobar. She had been stabbed 13 times — including in the heart, both lungs and the kidney — battered and suffocated.

Because Yvonne Gilford's 85-year-old mother Muriel is in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's disease, the Saudi court has rejected a power of attorney she granted to Frank three years ago, legal sources said.

Mr. Bakhrji, contacted by telephone in Dhahran, said the three-judge panel of the Khobar court which meets behind closed doors was waiting for a new power of attorney from Australia that would entitle Frank Gilford to give his verdict.

The defence has questioned the mental competence of the ailing mother. Lawyers for the Gilford family, however, insist he is also speaking on behalf of his mother, the only other surviving immediate blood relative of 55-year-

old Yvonne.

During the adjournments since the trial opened on May 19, Frank Gilford has declined offers to meet the families of the Britons and said he would not consider the option of a reconciliation before the court gives its verdict.

A British newspaper reported last week that Parry, who admitted to stabbing Gilford in confessions which the nurses later retracted, was receiving out-of-jail psychiatric help to cope with her fears of being beheaded.

But Mr. Bakhrji denied she has been out of jail for treatment and says she is only seeing the prison doctor, not a specialist. If the court accepts the confessions, which the nurses say were extracted under duress and promises of being allowed to leave Saudi Arabia, the verdict could be split for McLauchlan and Parry, according to legal sources.

They said McLauchlan, in the confessions, admitted to using a pillow to suppress Gilford's cries but not to the fatal stab-



S. African police warn foreign prostitutes to stay away

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — South African police have warned foreign prostitutes to leave the world's oldest profession, which is illegal here, to "South African girls," a press report said here Sunday.

Giacomo Bondesio, commander of the Police Illegal Aliens Unit issued a terse warning to the hundreds of foreign prostitutes who have slipped undetected into the country in recent years.

Johannesburg's Sunday Independent reported, "If anyone's going to benefit from working in our brothels, it's going to be South African girls." Bondesio said, "Stay at home. If you do try to work here... you'll be deported or repatriated. Hundreds of foreign women — mainly from former Soviet bloc countries and Thailand — have arrived in South Africa with visitor's visas.

U.S. preachers warn aliens are the devil's agents

ROSWELL (R) — Some preachers in this New Mexico town where aliens allegedly landed 50 years ago say Satan is behind the growing belief in extraterrestrial life.

Pastor Jim Suttle of Roswell's non-denominational Calvary Chapel said that the tens of thousands of people who have flocked to Roswell's UFO spectacular were drawn by the devil's "Alien Minions." "People are looking to UFOs as a replacement for God," said Suttle, organizer of a conference giving a Christian spin to aliens. "This is Satan distracting people from the lord."

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Girlfriend cuts off California man's organ

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A man was in serious condition in a California hospital on Saturday after his girlfriend cut off his penis with a butcher's knife, officials said.

Police said they found the man with his penis cut off when they responded to an emergency call Thursday from a home in Seaside, 100 miles south of San Francisco. The man was identified in press reports as Julio Luna, 20. Luna's girlfriend, Daisy

Mascada, 18, told police he had beaten her in a drunken rage and that she had cut off his penis with a serrated butcher's knife after he passed out, police said.

Luna was rushed to hospital where he underwent surgery to reattach the severed penis, local news reports said.

Chelsea Clinton's bodyguards in 'a little scuffle'

FLORENCE (AP) — Chelsea Clinton's bodyguards scuffled with two photographers outside a Florence disco after the first daughter of President Clinton was photographed there inside the club dancing, Europe's press said Sunday.

Chelsea, who has been touring Europe after her high school graduation, met her parents last Saturday in Spain where President Clinton is for the NATO summit in Madrid. A duty officer at the Florence police station called the incident "just a little scuffle."

Police broke it up, said the spokesman, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity. No charges will be filed, he said.

Photographer Riccardo Gemogbi said the bodyguards followed him and his colleague, Marco Savoca, outside the disco, shouting "No photos, no photos." According to Gemogbi, the bodyguards shoved Savoca against a wall, injuring him slightly. He said the incident took place around 2 a.m. after he and Savoca had taken pictures of the president's daughter dancing.

Chelsea Clinton's bodyguards scuffled with two photographers outside a Florence disco after the first daughter of President Clinton was photographed there inside the club dancing, Europe's press said Sunday.

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